

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING LEON J. SYLVESTER
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RE-
TIREMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join family, friends, community leaders, and colleagues in extending my sincere thanks and appreciation to Leon J. Sylvester as he celebrates his retirement after 43 years of dedicated service as an educator and administrator in the Shelton Public School System.

I have often spoken of our Nation's need for talented, creative educators ready to help our children learn and grow. Leon Sylvester has been just that kind of educator and administrator. In a career that has spanned five decades, Mr. Sylvester has involved himself in the education of young people at nearly every level. The Shelton community—especially its young people—has benefited from his unparalleled service.

Beginning his career as an elementary school teacher, Mr. Sylvester also served as a Social Studies teacher and Guidance Counselor before becoming the Director of Career, Vocational and Educational Training. In each of these positions, he helped to prepare young people for their futures by providing them with the fundamental tools they would need to succeed. He spent the first three decades of his career developing a distinguished reputation as an innovative educator and progressive administrator, which resulted in his elevation to Superintendent of Schools.

In his 14 years as Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Sylvester's leadership has led to significant improvements in both the physical school buildings as well as the programs offered by the school system. He founded the Student Mentoring Program and participates as a mentor, instituted the Alternative Education Program, and began an early reading intervention program for at risk students in the primary grades. During his tenure he also established the long range school facilities and capital improvement plan, oversaw the addition of media centers in Shelton's elementary schools, as well as the construction of a new intermediate school. His many contributions have created an enriched learning environment for all of Shelton's children—a legacy that will continue to make a difference in the lives of students for years to come.

In addition to his years of service to the Shelton Public School system, Mr. Sylvester has also been deeply involved in the community. He has held a seat on the City's Planning and Zoning Commission for nearly 20 years, serving as Chair for 6 years. He has had an integral role as a corporator for such organizations as the Hewitt Management Corporation, the Birmingham Group, Griffin Hospital, and the Shelton Boys & Girls Club—all organizations that have had a positive impact on the

community. He has also served on the Board of Directors for the Valley Instructional Network for Education, as the Education Chair for the Valley United Way, and has been involved with the Valley Substance Abuse Action Council. Through all of these efforts, Mr. Sylvester has demonstrated a unique and consummate dedication to public service. I have no doubt that he will continue in these efforts even after his retirement.

Educator, administrator, advocate, and community leader, Leon Sylvester has dedicated a lifetime of commitment to the City of Shelton and its residents. He has left an indelible mark—a model of all that a community member should be and an example to which we should all aspire. I am proud to rise today to join his wife, Barbara, children, grandchildren, family, friends, and colleagues in congratulating Leon J. Sylvester as he celebrates his retirement. My very best wishes for many more years of health and happiness.

TRIBUTE TO PERCY GREEN II,
CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS AC-
TIVIST

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Percy Green II who was among those outstanding Americans recently celebrated in the "Voices of Civil Rights" exhibit at the Library of Congress. It featured oral histories and photographs taken during the Voices of Civil Rights bus tour, which began in Washington, DC, on August 3, 2004. This 70-day tour through 22 states and 30 cities followed part of the route of the 1961 Freedom Rides to Jackson, Mississippi.

Mr. Green is a great St. Louisan who has earned a place in our Nation's history for his role in the fight to end racial discrimination. In an interview with the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Mr. Green said: "I realized that poor people and less fortunate people were not poor and less fortunate by choice. When I was able to realize there was such a thing that was called the white power structure, and it had a face and it was tangible, then of course, that was when I felt that it needed to be targeted."

In the early 1960s, Mr. Green was one of the few working class members of CORE, the Congress of Racial Equality. He was then an aircraft electrician—which he learned by correspondence—at the McDonnell-Douglas Corporation. He took it upon himself to help other African Americans find decent jobs and so he founded the Action Council to Improve Opportunities for Negroes (ACTION). ACTION targeted local St. Louis corporations and government bodies to expose job discrimination and demand better jobs for minorities. In numerous acts of civil disobedience they marched, sat-in, protested, disrupted and lobbied for a fair share of America's promise. Many St.

Louisans still remember that organization's first public demonstration when Mr. Green and a white man climbed up a leg of the St. Louis Gateway Arch while it was under construction. ACTION served as the central organization for desegregating working class jobs well into the 1980s.

The list of actions taken by Mr. Green on behalf of his fellow citizens is long indeed. Even today, at age 69, he remains deeply committed to ending injustice and protecting human rights. His great courage, personal sacrifice and vision have earned Percy Green national recognition and praise.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mr. Percy Green II before the U.S. House of Representatives for his lifetime achievements in the civil rights movement. He is among my heroes and I am proud to salute him for his many lasting contributions to both our community, and to the Nation.

ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 6) to ensure jobs for our future with secure, affordable, and reliable energy:

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, I rise to express some concerns that I have with the Ford amendment. I support the concept of promoting production of fuel efficient vehicles and encouraging the creation of U.S. jobs. But there are some issues that should be clarified as the bill proceeds to conference. I understand it is Congressman FORD's intention that any manufacturer producing vehicles in the United States would be eligible for funds under this program. That is encouraging and that intention needs to be made clear in the final statutory language in conference.

There are other terms that need additional clarification as well. What is meant by an "efficient hybrid" and an "advanced diesel vehicle"? If we are going to subsidize production, we should incentivize only the most efficient vehicles that reduce our nation's dependence on foreign oil.

In addition, I am concerned that the consumer incentives provided by this legislation are to be provided by the manufacturer. I am not sure how that would work logistically. The mechanism for distributing the incentives should be further refined.

And finally, before we enact this provision into law, we need an opinion from the Office of the United States Trade Representative as to whether it is consistent with our international obligations under the World Trade Organization and the North American Free Trade Agreement.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

COMMEMORATING THE 90TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN
GENOCIDE

HON. JOHN J.H. "JOE" SCHWARZ

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in commemorating the 90th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

Beginning on April 24, 1915, the Armenian Genocide was a horrific act of mass violence that should be remembered in infamy as one of the most egregious violations of human rights to ever befall this planet.

It is altogether fitting that we should commemorate this horrible tragedy, and that we should take note of a further outrage: that the government of Turkey, as well as that of these United States, to this day—90 years after the crimes began—has failed to recognize the slaughter for what it was: genocide.

We are speaking of the murder of one-and-a-half million people.

Torture, starvation, death marches, the killing of innocent civilians—all crimes against humanity and completely deserving of the world's condemnation.

Today, I join my colleagues from the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues in calling upon the administration and the government of Turkey to formally recognize the Armenian genocide. Its time has come.

LADY MARAUDERS WIN STATE
SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Lady Marauders of Marcus High School in Flower Mound, located in the 26th Congressional District of Texas, on their State Soccer Championship.

The Lady Marauders were coached to victory over North Mesquite by Kevin Albury who described his successful team as being very close-knit, "It's taken six years, but we finally did it. We said this was our time to do it, and our girls came ready to play."

This May, 14 of the winning players will graduate. Twelve of the 14 will continue their soccer career at the collegiate level; a fact that demonstrates the high caliber of the team. The win marked the Lady Marauder's first state title and third trip to the 5A state finals.

I am proud of these young ladies for their hard work and dedication to the sport of soccer. I am honored to represent these students, and their parents, teachers and especially their coach, in Washington. They are wonderful representatives of the great State of Texas, and I know that the Marcus Lady Marauders will continue to see many future successes.

THEODORE OLSON DEFENDS AN
INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, Theodore Olson, most recently Solicitor General under President George Bush from June 2001 until July of last year, is without question one of the leading members of the American Bar, and a very important figure in conservative politics. Mr. Olson understands that there not only is no conflict between an energetic political and intellectual conservatism and a deep respect for an independent judiciary, but that in fact the two are, as American history shows, wholly complementary, and in some ways reinforcing.

On April 21, Mr. Olson published a cogent, well-argued essay in the Wall Street Journal headlined Lay Off Our Judiciary. The article is an impressive rebuttal to some of the irresponsible, thoughtless attacks that have been made both on specific judges and on the notion of an independent judiciary. Clearly, Mr. Olson makes these arguments out of a genuine commitment to the institution of an independent judiciary, and not because he takes one side or another in a particular dispute that has found its way to the courts or to Congress. As he notes, "calls to investigate judges who have made unpopular decisions are particularly misguided, and if actually pursued, would undermine the independence that is vital to the integrity of judicial systems."

Mr. Olson goes on to be very critical of various aspects of the nomination battles now occurring in the Senate. I do not agree with everything he says here, but the importance of his overall affirmation of the centrality of an independent judiciary to our system of government is so relevant to current political debates that I ask that it be printed here.

[From the Wall Street Journal, Apr. 21, 2005]

LAY OFF OUR JUDICIARY

(By Theodore B. Olson)

A prominent member of the Senate leadership recently described a Supreme Court justice as "a disgrace." An equally prominent member of the leadership of the House of Representatives on the other side of the political aisle has characterized another justice's approach to adjudication as "incredibly outrageous." These excoriations follow other examples of personalized attacks on members of the judiciary by senior political figures. So it is time to take a deep breath, step back, and inject a little perspective into the recent heated rhetoric about judges and the courts.

We might start by getting a firm grip on the reality that our independent judiciary is the most respected branch of our government, and the envy of the world.

Every day, thousands and thousands of judges—jurists whose names we never hear, from our highest court to our most local tribunal—resolve controversies, render justice, and help keep the peace by providing a safe, reliable, efficient and honest dispute resolution process. The pay is modest, the work is frequently quite challenging, and the outcome often controversial. For every winner in these cases, there is a loser. Many disputes are close calls, and the judge's decision is bound to be unpopular with someone. But in this country we accept the decisions of judges, even when we disagree on the merits,

because the process itself is vastly more important than any individual decision. Our courts are essential to an orderly, lawful society. And a robust and productive economy depends upon a consistent, predictable, evenhanded, and respected rule of law. That requires respected judges. Americans understand that no system is perfect and no judge immune from error, but also that our society would crumble if we did not respect the judicial process and the judges who make it work.

We have recently witnessed tragic violence against judges, their families and court personnel in Chicago and Atlanta. These incidents serve as reminders of how vulnerable the judiciary is to those who may be aggrieved by judges' decisions. Violence and intimidation aimed at judges is plainly intolerable; all of us can, and should, be unequivocally unified on the proposition that judges must be protected from aggrieved litigants and acts of terrorism. The wall between the rule of law and anarchy is fragile; if it is penetrated, freedom, property and liberty cannot long endure.

This is not to say that some judges don't render bad decisions. Arrogant and misguided jurists exist, just as such qualities may be found in the rest of the population, and our citizens and elected representatives are fully justified in speaking out in forceful disagreement with judges who substitute their personal values or private social instincts for sound jurisprudential principles. But the remedies for these aberrations consist of reasoned, even sharp, criticism, appeals to higher courts, and selection of candidates for judicial positions that respect limits on the roles of judges.

But, absent lawlessness or corruption in the judiciary, which is astonishingly rare in this country, impeaching judges who render decisions we do not like is not the answer. Nor is the wholesale removal of jurisdiction from federal courts over such matters as prayer, abortion, or flag-burning. While Congress certainly has the constitutional power, indeed responsibility, to restrict the jurisdiction of the federal courts to ensure that judges decide only matters that are properly within their constitutional role and expertise, restricting the jurisdiction of courts in response to unpopular decisions is an overreaction that ill-serves the long-term interests of the nation. As much as we deplore incidents of bad judging, we are not necessarily better off with—and may dislike even more—adjudications made by presidents or this year's majority in Congress.

Calls to investigate judges who have made unpopular decisions are particularly misguided, and if actually pursued, would undermine the independence that is vital to the integrity of judicial systems. If a judge's decisions are corrupt or tainted, there are lawful recourses (prosecution or impeachment); but congressional interrogations of lifetime judges, presumably under oath, as to why a particular decision was rendered, would constitute interference with—and intimidation of—the judicial process. And there is no logical stopping point once this power is exercised.

Which member of Congress, each with his or her own constituency, would ask what questions of which judges about what decisions? Imagine the kinds of questions asked routinely in confirmation or oversight hearings. How can those questions be answered about a pending or decided case? And what if a judge refused to testify and defend his reasoning about a particular decision? Would an impeachment or prosecution for contempt of Congress follow? Either would be unthinkable. Federal judges are highly unlikely to submit to such a demeaning process and, if push came to shove, the public would undoubtedly support the judges.

No discussion of the judiciary should close without reference to the shambles that the Senate confirmation process has become. It does no good to speculate about how or when the disintegration began, which political interest has been the most culpable, or the point at which the appointment of judges became completely dysfunctional. That sort of debate is both endless and futile. The only hope for an end to the downward spiral is for the combatants to lay down their arms; stop using judicial appointments to excite special interest constituencies and political fundraising; move forward with votes on qualified, responsible and respected nominees so that those who have the support of a majority of the Senate can be confirmed, as contemplated by the Constitution; and remove the rancor and gamesmanship from the judicial selection process.

We expect dignity, wisdom, decency, civility, integrity and restraint from our judges. It is time to exercise those same characteristics in our dealings with, and commentary on, those same judges—from their appointment and confirmation, to their decision-making once they take office.

INTRODUCTION OF SHAREHOLDER DESCENDENTS VOTING STANDARD AMENDMENT

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), as originally enacted, limited Alaska Native Regional Corporations from enrolling Natives born after December 18, 1971, as shareholders in their respective corporations. Subsequent amendments to ANCSA have allowed Regional Corporations to include Natives born after December 18, 1971 (often referred to as "New Natives" or "Shareholder Descendents"), if existing shareholders of the Corporation adopt a resolution at an annual meeting. Thus far, very few Native Corporations have adopted resolutions to include Shareholder Descendents, in part because the standard for adopting a resolution is too high.

Existing law provides that a resolution is considered approved by the shareholders of a Native Corporation if it receives an affirmative vote from a "majority of the total voting power of the corporation". At any given annual meeting; however, the total voting power of the corporation is not exercised.

Accordingly, it is possible that eighty-five to ninety percent of the voting proxies at an annual meeting would be required to vote in favor of a Shareholder Descendents resolution. This is an extremely difficult threshold to meet. Accordingly, the attached proposed amendment would allow a Shareholder Descendents resolution to be approved by a majority of the shares present or represented by proxy at an annual meeting. If a change is not made to the existing voting standard for adoption of a Shareholder Descendents resolution, the promises of ANCSA are potentially left unfulfilled, at present, two generations of Shareholder Descendents.

ENGINEERING A SOLUTION; BRING WOMEN INTO THE FOLD

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, amidst the controversy surrounding recent disparaging remarks regarding women in science, I was encouraged to read an editorial from a shining star in Silicon Valley, Carol Bartz, the President and CEO of Autodesk and a member of the President's Council of Advisers on Science and Technology. Ms. Bartz is right, while the controversy of women in science rages on, "unless we bring the other half of our population [women] into the engineering ranks, that [U.S.] leadership [in engineering] inevitably will evaporate."

I would like to include Ms. Bartz' editorial, printed in the San Jose Mercury News on March 24, 2005, in the RECORD.

[From the San Jose Mercury News, Mar. 24, 2005]

ENGINEERING A SOLUTION: BRING WOMEN INTO THE FOLD

(By Carol Bartz)

Last week, Harvard University President Lawrence Summers suffered the sting of a faculty no-confidence vote, stemming from his remarks in January about women in science.

But every day, U.S. companies and the U.S. economy suffer the far more significant sting of girls avoiding science and engineering career paths in droves.

Despite interesting work and excellent pay—an average of \$81,000 a year, almost twice U.S. median household income—employers are begging people to fill positions. Yet just one in 10 engineers is a woman, a far worse track record than science or math.

Why are girls who are fully capable of planning cities, designing jet engines or creating the next iPod avoiding engineering? Is it some biological difference in the female brain, the premise that cost Summers so dearly? Or is it simply a lack of encouragement during those crucial teen years when career paths are forged?

Does it matter?

Even with top salaries, the free-market supply of electrical and mechanical engineers is well below U.S. demand. Something is clearly wrong. The answer is obvious: We are relying on archaic, boys' club traditions to supply an industry that instead should serve as a role model for pure efficiency and reason. And we risk global competitiveness as a result.

No responsible CEO would try to build a business by ignoring the value of half her available capital. That would abrogate her responsibility to shareholders, employees and customers. Yet the engineering world is engaged in precisely this irresponsible corporate behavior by failing to take advantage of one-half of the available human "capital."

And in America we do so at our peril, because a perfect storm is brewing.

On one side of our nation looms international competition in engineering-dependent industries we once dominated. The only answer to maintaining our competitive edge is to use our engineering expertise to create innovation.

Looming on the other side is an immense gap between the demand for innovative young engineers and the number of students awarded degrees in mechanical and electrical

engineering. Every day the gap grows, as an aging national workforce of some 2 million engineers gradually retires without nearly enough graduates to take their place.

With our national competitiveness for the 21st century at stake, we have no choice. We must work to change the status quo and ensure that the female half of our population makes its proportional contribution to the ranks of engineering.

As a software engineer by training, and the CEO of a company whose products are used by millions of engineers globally, I have seen the current system firsthand.

Even at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's School of Engineering, the No. 1-ranked school in the country, U.S. News & World Report found women made up only 25 percent of graduate enrollment last year.

The private sector must shoulder much of the burden of attracting women to the field. Offering competitive salaries is not enough. It is incumbent on companies to make an engineering career compelling in all of its aspects to young women—to re-energize the field and reintroduce the "cool" factor that engineering once possessed.

There is some hope. Already, the National Science Foundation, the Business-Higher Education Forum and other organizations are working hard to encourage women to join the ranks of American engineers. As for the "cool," this weekend, San Jose State University will host the regional round of the FIRST Robotics competition, offering high school students (girls included!) the opportunity to solve engineering design problems using robotics.

For more than a century, America's global economic leadership has rested on innovation by our engineers, the best in the world. Through them, we have been able to meet tremendous challenges, building the world's most complex infrastructure, some of the world's largest and most important cities, and products that have changed the lives of people everywhere. Unless we bring the other half of our population into the engineering ranks, that leadership inevitably will evaporate.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 1.5 million Armenian men, women and children who lost their lives during the Armenian Genocide.

April 24th marks the anniversary of one of the darkest tragedies in human history—one that must be properly commemorated as the first genocide of the 20th century. On this day ninety years ago, the Ottoman Turk regime began rounding up hundreds of Armenian intellectuals and political leaders to be deported or executed. Thousands more Armenians were killed in their homes or on the streets. For five years, the brutal regime carried out the systematic destruction of the Armenian people through forced labor, concentration camps, and death marches, until millions were dead or exiled.

As we look back on the bloodshed and atrocities committed against the Armenian people, we must publicly acknowledge the weight of this human tragedy. I am disappointed that President Bush failed to characterize the brutal massacre of the Armenian people as a genocide in his annual commemoration address. To deny this truth is to

dishonor the memories of the millions of Armenians who lost their lives to ethnic cleansing.

The April 24th remembrance of the Armenian Genocide is also a reminder of the responsibility of all nations to stop these human tragedies from reoccurring. Today, a genocide is taking place in the Darfur region of Sudan. It has resulted in the murders of at least 70,000 innocent civilians, the internal displacement of 1.9 million, and the forced exile of 200,000. The international community must act now before Darfur reaches the scale of the Armenian Genocide.

Massachusetts' Armenian community, much of which I have the honor of representing, is committed to raising awareness of the tragedy that befell Armenians of the Ottoman Empire. Every year, survivors and their descendants participate in commemoration services across the Merrimack Valley to shed light on this dark tragedy. In my hometown of Lowell, the Armenian-American Veterans Honor Guard leads a procession to City Hall for a flag raising ceremony. Through these observances, we will never forget the truth.

TRIBUTE TO SISTER MARY
ANTONA EBO, CIVIL AND HUMAN
RIGHTS ACTIVIST

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. CLAY. Mr. speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sister Mary Antona Ebo, a Missourian who was recently celebrated by the Library of Congress in the "Voices of Civil Rights" exhibit for her inspirational service to our nation. She is one of the "Sisters of Selma," a group of Catholic nuns who risked their lives to promote civil rights.

Sister Ebo's role in civil rights history centered around the brutal "Bloody Sunday," beatings that took place at the Edmond Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama. On March 7, 1965, law enforcement officials used horses, clubs and gas to turn back the voting rights marchers as they began their 50 mile march to the state capital at Montgomery. Three days later, in response to a request by the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Sister Ebo went to Selma with a group of religious leaders from St. Louis. There she spoke out against the violence and urged minorities in Alabama to pursue their right to vote. In recalling her role in the historic events in Alabama, Sister Ebo said recently that she saw her actions as a call from God to make a difference.

After the civil rights marches ended, Sister Ebo continued her life of service to others. In 1967, she became the first African American woman religious professional to head a hospital. She was named administrator of St. Clare Hospital and Health Services in Baraboo, Wisconsin. Today she is a treasured member of the St. Louis community where she serves as pastoral associate at St. Nicholas Catholic Church.

Recently, Sister Ebo recalled her days in the civil rights movement. She told a newspaper reporter: "We did that then, in responding to the need of the moment, but there are still needs that need to be addressed by us as women religious. We need to be speaking out,

speaking up and saying 'No, we will not participate in those kinds of activities, which oppress a part of our people, whether black, white or polka-dot.' "

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize Sister Mary Antona Ebo before the U.S. House of Representatives for her many lifetime achievements. She has been a source of spirit and strength for countless Americans. She is among my heroes and I am proud to salute her for her many lasting contributions to our community and to this nation.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER AND
CONTRIBUTIONS OF ROBERT
MINEHARDT

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Robert Minehardt, a distinguished educator at Shrewsbury Borough School, on his retirement after forty years of dedicated service to educating up to three generations of local families.

Robert Minehardt has become a vital part of the Shrewsbury community as he has held nearly every leadership position available to a teacher. Since beginning his career in 1965, he has taught fifth and sixth grades, as a general education teacher and then as a science teacher. Mr. Minehardt has also served as vice-principal for more than 10 years, and also, for a short period as the acting superintendent. He has been the Shrewsbury's Title I director, summer school director, the T&E director, the teacher-in-charge, and the assistant to the superintendent. Outside of the classroom, Mr. Minehardt was also active for several years as a coach to the boy's basketball team, supervisor to intramural sports, and coordinator for the CPR program with Shrewsbury's local first aid squad.

Inside the classroom, Mr. Minehardt had a passion for science concentrated in the areas of oceanography and space exploration. Most notably, his interest led him to advocate for the development of the schools' science program. He organized trips to the beaches of Sandy Hook, NJ and formed the in-school science club program.

As a resident of Shrewsbury since 1968, Robert Minehardt attended high school at Red Bank Regional High in Little Silver, NJ. He then went on to achieve his undergraduate degree at Monmouth University in West Long Branch, NJ and continued his graduate education at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ. Mr. Minehardt returned to Shrewsbury to raise his family including his two sons, Adam and Todd. Both boys attended Shrewsbury schools and were even taught by their father. Currently, Robert Minehardt and his wife, Maggie Minehardt, live in Fair Haven, NJ, where he volunteers as a fire fighter.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the entire 12th district of New Jersey, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Robert Minehardt on his retirement, and we wish him the best in his move to Florida.

IN HONOR OF THE 2ND
BATTALION, 113TH INFANTRY

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 2nd Battalion, 113th infantry on their return from Guantanamo Bay. On Thursday, April 21, 2005, family members, commanding officers, local officials, friends and neighbors came together to honor their return with a Welcome Home Ceremony at the Jersey City Armory in Jersey City, New Jersey.

The 2nd Battalion, 113th Infantry has a distinguished record dating back to the Revolutionary War. Their nine month long deployment, from June 2004 to April 2005, was part of Operation Enduring Freedom in support of the ongoing global war against terrorism. The battalion was an integral element of Joint Task Force Guantanamo (JTF-GTMO). I had the honor of visiting with many of these soldiers in December during a trip to Guantanamo, and I can personally attest to their dedication and commitment to protecting the freedoms we all hold dear as Americans.

I would also like to provide a special mention of the Expert Infantry Badge Recipients: Capt. Jurandir Araujo, Jr; 1st Lt. Curtis R. Boyd; 2nd Lt. Peter B. Hegseth; Staff Sgt. Nicholas L. Forrestal; Staff Sgt. Michael J. Klock; Sgt. John Casiano; Sgt. Julio C. Garcia, Jr.; Sgt. Daniel M. Kim; Sgt. Benjamin G. Ouckama; Sgt. Winston G. Ouckama, Jr.; Sgt. Roque L. Rodriguez, Jr.; Sgt. Daniel E. Torres; Sgt. Carl M.I. Cabanas; Spc. Damian P. Caceres; Sgt. Damien N. Joseph; Spc. Jorge M. Oliveira; Spc. Ernesto D. Rances; and Spc. Anthony Scally.

Brave members of the National Guard, I believe they can no longer be viewed as simply 'weekend warriors,' but as full-time soldiers making sacrifices to defend our freedom. I believe they all deserve to be treated as such.

Today I ask my colleagues to join me in appreciation of their service, and in fighting to provide health care for these brave men and women and their families, to reduce the retirement age for guardsmen, and to provide readjustment assistance such as counseling, job training, and family assistance.

THANKING STEVEN A. McNAMARA
FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Steven "Steve" McNamara, the Inspector General of the House of Representatives will be retiring at the end of May after a long and distinguished career in service to the United States Government. His exemplary career spans 35 years of service, the last 5 of which have been spent with the House of Representatives. Steve's considerable professional skills and credentials as a Certified Public Accountant, Certified Internal Auditor, Certified Information Systems Auditor, and Certified Government Financial Manager equipped him for the important role of leading the Office of Inspector General in

the House of Representatives. Through Steve's strong leadership, the Office of Inspector General has conducted essential reviews of the House's financial and administrative operations. These reviews and resulting recommendations have helped the House to achieve our present standards of safety, security, information assurance, and accountability, and Steve's role in these worthy institutional achievements cannot be understated.

Steve's leadership of the Office of Inspector General has spanned a wide area of audit services ranging from the analysis of the House's financial controls to careful analysis of emerging technologies. His business improvement initiatives and focus on efficiency have improved administrative functions in the House Officer organizations and realized cost savings for the House. Furthermore, his efforts have served a valuable purpose in achieving improved services and security for individual Members of Congress and staff. He has worked to ensure fire safety improvements in House facilities and has been paramount to assuring the integrity of the House's information technology systems.

Steve will be missed by all of his colleagues and the House, but he can take great satisfaction in the many positive and important accomplishments of his career. Steve's judicious advice and counsel on matters of significant importance to the House will be difficult to replace. I wish Steve and his wife Jill a joyful and exciting retirement and I thank him once again for his long and distinguished career in Federal service.

HONORING THE HOROWITZ BROTHERS AS THEY ARE RECOGNIZED BY THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join New Haven city officials, residents, customers, family and friends in paying tribute to Arthur, Leonard, and Philip Horowitz—owners of Horowitz Brothers, a fabric and clothing store which became a New Haven institution.

Emigrating from Russia, Philip and Leonard's father, William, and his uncle, Jack, came to New Haven in 1913 and began selling fabric from a pushcart on Grand Avenue. With hard work, dedication, and a dream they opened a storefront nearby and later, Horowitz Bros. moved to its permanent home on Chapel Street. In later years, Philip, Leonard, and their cousin Arthur took over the family business.

I have often said that small businesses are the backbone of our nation's economy. Through the years, Horowitz Bros. has been a fixture in downtown New Haven outlasting a number of large department stores as well as smaller, family-owned business which have gradually disappeared. For the last ninety years, Horowitz Bros. has been a valued treasure in the City of New Haven—a testament to the American Dream and to the invaluable place small business has in a community.

I have fond memories of going with my mother to pick out fabrics for the dresses she

would make for me as a child. While waiting for my mother to choose her fabrics, you could always find me rearranging the many spools of thread—a habit which I am sure caused some chaos, but was always met with a good natured smile. It was indeed a sad day for the residents and City of New Haven when we learned that Horowitz Bros. would be closing its doors last October—as if we had lost a part of ourselves.

Horowitz Bros. holds a special place in the hearts of employees and customers alike. That is why it came as no surprise when I learned that their faithful customers had began a petition drive, determined to ensure that the City of New Haven recognized the Horowitz Bros. invaluable contribution to our community—not just as a business, but as a family. Today, city officials, residents, customers, friends and family are gathered to witness the unveiling of “Horowitz Brothers Corner”—the street corner which for so long was home to the very special family-run emporium.

Though we lost Philip just last year, I know that he is with us today and I am proud to stand today to honor Arthur, Leonard, and Philip for all that they brought to our community. It is because of their hard work and their commitment that even though its doors have closed, Horowitz Bros. will forever be a piece of our City's rich history. The naming of this street corner in their honor will ensure that their legacy lives on for generations to come.

TRIBUTE TO SHERRIE ANDERSON

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sherrie Anderson who is retiring as the Deputy Director of the Mass Transit Security Programs Office of the Transportation Security Administration. I join my fellow colleagues in honoring the 34 years of service that Anderson has given to the protection of our nation's passengers. I am honored to give my compliments to a woman who has tirelessly pursued improvements in the nation's transportation security. She has played a pivotal role in our nation's defense against terrorism.

For many years, Anderson was a lone voice in the wilderness of the Department of Transportation begging, pleading and cajoling the various modes of transportation to shore up efforts in improving security.

As the guiding light of the Secretary of Transportation's Office of Security, Anderson was in the forefront of the Department's response to innumerable incidents over the past decades including Pan American Flight 103, the first World Trade Center Bombing, and September 11th.

In the wake of 9/11, Anderson was one of the original hires in the Office of Maritime and Land of the newly created Transportation Security Administration. She served as the first Chief of the Rail Passenger Branch, Deputy Director of the Passenger Security Division and then as Deputy Director of Mass Transit Security Programs Office.

In that capacity, Anderson led efforts to improve passenger screening efforts in commuter rail systems. Through her work, the

three-phase Transit Rail Inspection Pilot (TRIP) was undertaken to demonstrate the efficacy of various technologies for passenger security screening systems.

Throughout Anderson's tenure with the Federal Government, she has consistently shown grace and poise that has enabled her to talk to the highest levels of the government as well as those on the frontlines responding to transportation security incidents. Her calmness and level-headedness in crisis situations has been an enduring asset to both the Departments of Transportation and Homeland Security.

I encourage others to continue her dedication to the betterment of transportation security for our fellow citizens. I congratulate the family of Sherrie Anderson on this momentous occasion. I wish her a well-earned retirement, and the thanks of a grateful nation.

CHAMBER MUSIC OF THE HIGHEST ORDER

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to commend the Craftsbury Chamber Players, who this year are celebrating a double anniversary. For 40 consecutive years they have performed chamber music in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont, and for 25 consecutive years they have performed in Burlington, Vermont's largest city. Founded and still directed by pianist Mary Anthony Cox, the Craftsbury Chamber Players bring chamber music of the highest order to northern Vermont.

The Northeast Kingdom is the least populous area of Vermont, yet every summer the woods of Craftsbury, Hardwick and Greensboro reverberate with the sounds of Haydn, Schubert, Dvorak, and twentieth century music. The Craftsbury Players present concerts that are both innovative and broad. Their repertoire spans over 300 years of music, introducing audiences to little-known works of the past and present, as well as those great chamber pieces which have sustained generations of music lovers. Every concert explores music which should be heard, but often isn't: forgotten works by major composers, supposedly difficult compositions by twentieth century modernists, and seldom-preformed works from our very own day.

These world-class performers come to Vermont to play together, to make music because they love the great richness which comes from measured rhythms and ordered sound. It is fitting that this year their anniversary celebration will be capped by the world premiere of a quintet by Kenji Bunch, a long-time violist with the Craftsbury Players. Commissioned especially for this anniversary, it will be performed on July 20, 2005 in Burlington and July 21 in Hardwick.

The Craftsbury Chamber Players have shared their love of music with thousands of people in Vermont. On this, their 40th anniversary, the people of Vermont salute them for their dedication to music and for bringing the best in music to our communities.

TISHCON CORPORATION

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the gracious humanitarian efforts of the Tishcon Corporation, a company that manufactures vitamins and nutritional supplements. Throughout the years, this company has generously donated vitamins, nutritional supplements, money, and time to benefit those in need around the world.

Raj K. Chopra, Vipin Patel, and others established Tishcon Corporation in 1977. The company has consistently developed high quality products while always maintaining the high satisfaction of its customers. In conjunction with Vitamin Relief USA, Tishcon Corporation provides free multivitamins each day for more than 14,000 children at risk for malnutrition.

In addition to providing multivitamins for children, Tishcon Corporation has provided over 2,500 multivitamins to at-risk homeless adults and senior citizens every day. Not only does this company provide vitamins and supplements to those in need, they have also donated money to assist in the distribution of these as well.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the outstanding humanitarian accomplishments of Tishcon Corporation, an exemplary model of corporate humanity and citizenship in today's world of business.

IN HONOR OF BRUCE HORACE
CARLSON AND MATT FRIDAY**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two dear friends from the 17th Congressional District of California, Mr. Bruce Horace Carlson and Mr. Matt Friday. Both Matt and Bruce are devoted community activists whose volunteerism and generous spirits have enriched the Monterey Bay region through their work in education, social justice, politics, the environment, health and the arts. Matt and Bruce are soon leaving the Monterey Peninsula and moving to Oregon.

Bruce Horace Carlson was born on April 13, 1942 in Pittsburg, California. Bruce moved to the Monterey Peninsula in 1986 and as long as I have had the pleasure of knowing him, he has been a tireless advocate for Democratic politics and civil rights. In 1999 he became a founding board member of the Monterey County Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN). He was a founding member of the Monterey County Coalition for Fairness and was a founding board member of the Monterey County Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Task Force. He was the co-director of Monterey's first Gay Pride Parade in 1992 and has been involved in several annual Pride Days since then. To say Bruce has been active in local and national Democratic politics would not go nearly far enough in describing the level of his contributions. Bruce has played

a significant role in the 27th Assembly District since 1996 holding various offices and committee seats. He has been a Representative for the Bay Area Municipal Elections Committee in Monterey County since 1994 and has been a board member of that body since 1996. In addition to his many hours of organizing and volunteering locally, Bruce has been a delegate to the California State Convention as well as being a delegate to the Democratic National Convention held in Los Angeles in 2000.

Mr. Matt Friday was born on September 21, 1950 in Ottumwa, Iowa but has made his home on the Monterey Peninsula for over three decades. In those three decades, Matt has made an enormous and everlasting impact on this community in areas as diverse as education, the environment, health, the arts, as well as social justice and politics. I cannot think of any other individual in my district who has donated more time to these issues than Matt. Matt has tirelessly dedicated his efforts to the Monterey Bay community as a volunteer teacher, a co-founder of several environmental projects, a board member for the Monterey County AIDS Project (MCAP) and a frequent contributor to numerous local publications. Matt is also a respected and accomplished organizer in the area of human rights and has organized dozens of educational community forums on issues such as hate crimes, racism, and the PATRIOT Act.

In the area of politics, Matt will leave behind a legacy of thoughtful, energetic and strategic volunteering, planning and organizing from which this community continues to benefit. Matt Friday's name is synonymous with progressive politics on the Peninsula; to say he embodies politics does not overstate the level of his political activism in my district. It would be a futile effort to attempt to list all of Matt's contributions to local politics but some of his most notable achievements have been to co-organize a very successful precinct captains program with neighboring Santa Cruz County during the 2004 election, serving as Chair of the 27th Assembly District from 1999–2003, appointed to be a member of the California State Democratic Central Committee since 1996, serving as co-President of the Bay Area Municipal Elections Committee 2003–2004, and acting as an observer and commentator for KION-TV during the 2000 Los Angeles Democratic National Convention.

It is evident that Matt and Bruce will be missed for all of their contributions and volunteerism to the community, but Mr. Speaker I must also say that I will profoundly miss Matt and Bruce for their kind, warm, and generous spirits. I have spent many evenings in their wonderful home in Del Ray Oaks talking politics and human rights and admiring their gorgeous terraced garden which they lovingly cultivated over the years. I have always felt as if Matt and Bruce were a part of my extended family in my district. I will miss them both personally and professionally.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity on the floor of this great House to thank Matt Friday and Bruce Carlson for their generosity of spirit and for the everlasting contributions they have made to the Monterey Peninsula. I wish them all the best as they embark on a new chapter in their lives.

COMMEMORATING THE 90TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN
GENOCIDE**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the horrific events that occurred in the Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1923. The Armenian Genocide was a global tragedy. Over an eight year period, one and a half million Armenians were killed and about a half a million more were forced into exile. Every one of us, as citizens of the world, has a responsibility to ensure that the legacy of the Armenian Genocide is acknowledged and remembered so such human tragedies will not reoccur.

We debated for months, as systematic killings occurred in Darfur, about whether the actions there constituted acts of genocide. That is why I rise today to voice my disappointment at the administration's continued lack of clarity when referring to the genocide that occurred during the time of the Ottoman Empire. Falling well short of a declaration, the President referred to the tragedy in his April 24 statement as a "great calamity." Indeed, what occurred was a calamity of such dimensions that the Armenian people are still dealing with its consequences today. But genocide is more than calamity.

I share the opinion of the members of the Armenian Assembly of America who say the President's weak statement, "was a missed opportunity . . . to speak the truth plainly, to once and for all avoid using evasive terminology. . . ." Just as there is no reason to equivocate about what is happening to the people of Darfur, there is no reason to equivocate about what happened to the Armenians 90 years ago. Genocide is genocide.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE
CAREER OF MR. LOUIS J.
DIFILIPPO**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize and honor the career of Mr. Louis J. DiFilippo as he prepares to retire after 40 years of distinguished service in support of our Nation. Throughout his career, DiFilippo has lived the Navy's core values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment, and he has led the Navy and the Naval Facilities Engineering Command through a period of unprecedented challenges and change.

In November of 1965, DiFilippo began his service to the Navy at the Northern Division, Bureau of Yards and Docks in Boston, MA. He started as a GS-2 Clerk, and over the course of his career rose through the Civil Service ranks to become a GS-15 senior manager for the Naval Facilities Engineering Command. He leaves a record of service, professional development, and dedication to our Nation not commonly seen these days.

A native of Boston, and a dedicated member of Red Sox Nation, DiFilippo continued

with Northern Division, and then Chesapeake Division, to become a GS-7 Management Analyst. Moving to Washington DC in June 1970, he continued to progress at the Chesapeake Division, becoming a GS-11 Program Analyst. In April 1973, he was promoted to Headquarters, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, where he began as a GS-11 Employment Development Specialist. For the next 15 years, Mr. DiFilippo had a most profound impact on manpower matters in the entire Command. For 9 years as a GS-13, he led the Naval Facilities Engineering Command Professional Development Program, bringing numerous professionals onto the roles, and nurturing their careers through professional guidance and support. Many of those he hired and guided are now the key leaders in the organization.

Moving up again in the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, DiFilippo became a GS-14 Supervisory Management Analyst in the Office of Civilian Personnel Programs, and eventually became the GS-15 Director of the Office of Civilian Personnel Programs (the "DCPP," as his position is known), with wide responsibilities for all aspects of personnel policy and management.

Someone of his breadth of talent is often called upon to help in other areas. In July 1988, DiFilippo was detailed to the Pentagon to support the Navy Model Installations Program. His extensive knowledge and skills helped numerous initiatives gain acceptance and improve the Naval shore establishment. He continued with the Model Installation Program at the Naval Facilities Engineering Command until April 1991, when he became the GS-15 Special Assistant to the Deputy Director of Programs and Comptroller at the Naval Facilities Engineering Command. In this position, he influenced major budgetary and program decisions, improving efficiency and effectiveness.

From 1993 until his retirement, Mr. DiFilippo served as the GS-15 Director of Corporate Management, acting as the Special Assistant to the Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, and to the Deputy Commander for Operations. His positive influence on Command decision-making during this period cannot be overstated. He has been the steady, keen mind helping to implement major Command initiatives, and advising not only senior managers, but the entire Command. Everyone in the Naval Facilities Engineering Command knows that if you need an answer, "Just ask Lou."

DiFilippo's steadfast leadership and superb performance have won him awards almost too numerous to mention. He has received the Superior Civilian Service Award three times (1982, 1984 and 1998), and the prestigious Distinguished Civilian Service Award in 2005. He leaves behind a legacy of mentorship and service that will be difficult to match, along with a cadre of leaders within the Command that have benefited from his professional guidance.

I am pleased to recognize and thank Louis DiFilippo for his long and dedicated service to this country, and I join his family, friends, and colleagues in wishing him "Fair Winds and Following Seas" as he begins his well earned retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE OF THOMAS BROWN

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of an outstanding American—Mr. Thomas Brown of La Grange, IL, who passed away on April 11, 2005.

To say that Tom Brown devoted his life to service is an understatement. A native of Cicero, IL, Mr. Brown married his childhood sweetheart, the former Helen Sauer in 1942—right before joining the Army Air Corps as a bombardier. While flying a mission on March 26, 1945, Lieutenant Brown's bomber was hit by enemy fire over Austria, and the father-to-be became a prisoner of war.

Not satisfied to sit on the sidelines for the remainder of the war, Lieutenant Brown joined his fellow prisoners in overpowering the guards—and then stealing a German plane! The escapees flew the plane to Allied-occupied Yugoslavia, where they crash-landed the plane after being shot at by Allied troops. Lieutenant Brown received the Purple Heart, the Air Medal, the Victory Medal and the Distinguished Flying Cross for his part in the storybook escape.

Upon returning to the states after the war, Tom Brown did what most veterans did at the time—he went to work, in his case, in the family plumbing business, and he raised a family with Helen.

Mr. Brown's devotion to service led him into local politics, and he served on the La Grange Village Board from 1968 to 1973 and as Village President from 1973 to 1977. In 1983, Mr. Brown took a position as La Grange Code Enforcement Officer and Plumbing Inspector, working until his retirement in 2002.

He was well-known around the community for his wit and easygoing personality. As current La Grange Village President Tim Hansen said, Tom Brown was "the classic old Irish character."

"He was just terrific at limericks and he had a knack for putting people at ease. Both he and Helen have been great friends to the village—just stalwarts in their commitment to helping the village or the church or whatever cause needed them," President Hansen said.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my deepest condolences to Mrs. Brown and the Brown children, as on the passing of Tom Brown, who represented so well the "Greatest Generation."

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF JENNIFER HENRY, MARION MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the countless contributions of Jennifer Henry to Marion Middle School.

Jennifer Henry received her B.A. in Anthropology from Texas A&M University. She is currently furthering her education by pursuing her Master's in Secondary Education from Texas State University.

Ms. Henry became interested in teaching while she was a student at Texas A&M. Her studies there convinced her that students need more than just information: they need to be taught how to study and learn. As a result of this insight, Ms. Henry strives to give her students the skills and habits of thought they will need to become successful lifelong learners.

Ms. Henry's goal is to provide a safe, inviting, and engaging classroom environment. She aims to make her curriculum student-centered, and to take advantage of all the available technology resources to facilitate learning. She believes that students learn best from practical examples, and tries to connect learning with real-life applications as much as possible.

Ms. Henry is an energetic and committed teacher, and her efforts have already made a positive impact on her school district and her students. She has a bright future ahead of her, and I am happy to have the chance to applaud her work here today.

INTRODUCTION OF PORTLAND STREETCAR TARIFF WAIVER BILL

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing legislation that will waive tariffs on three new streetcars to be delivered in 2006 for the city of Portland's successful streetcar system. Without a domestic producer of compatible streetcars, it does not seem reasonable that the city should have to pay an additional \$300,000 in tariffs.

The Portland streetcar system has served as an important mobility option in circulating workers, students and visitors throughout the downtown area. Additionally, the system has attracted over a billion dollars in development along its route, linking housing, offices, retail, and Portland State University. Recently, the streetcar was extended down to the banks of the Willamette River and construction has already begun on a further extension to the South Waterfront development project being anchored by Oregon Health Sciences University.

I thank the Ways and Means Committee for consideration of this legislation, which will continue to help improve the transportation options and livability of Oregonians.

TRADEMARK DILUTION REVISION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 683, the Trademark Dilution Revision Act.

Trademark law emanates from the commerce clause. It was originally about consumer protection, ensuring consumers are not confused or harmed by the misuse of a famous trademark, rather than property protection. However, with the passage of the Federal

Trademark Dilution Act in 1995, the issue of trademark dilution became more an issue of property protection. The purpose of that law was to enable businesses" to protect the investment that companies have made in branding their products. Consumer confusion was no longer required to establish "dilution." Not surprisingly, private lawsuits in this area jumped from 2,405 in 1990 to 4,187 in 2000.

For example, Starbucks went after a local coffee shop in my district that was named after its owner, Samantha Buck Lundberg. The coffee shop bore the nickname given to her by her family and friends—Sambuck. Ringling Bros.-Barnum and Bailey Circus sued the State of Utah over Utah's advertising slogan that it had "The Greatest Show on Earth." To the circus this slogan was an obvious play on the long time identification of the circus as "The Greatest Show on Earth." Microsoft sued to prevent use of the term "Lindows" for the Linux operating system software and website produced by Lindows, Inc., arguing that it was clearly an attempt to play on the Windows designation of its own operating system. Lindows eventually changed the name of the product and website to "Linspire" after losing court cases. Best Western International the hotel/motel chain appears to be trying to claim sole right to the word "Best" when it comes to using the word in names of hotels or motels. It has sued both Best Inns and Best Value Inns, contending that those names infringe on its trademark.

In recent years, the Supreme Court addressed these lawsuits in *Moseley, et al., DBA Victor's Little Secret v. V Secret Catalogue, Inc., et al.*, in which Victoria's Secret sued a small business in Kentucky. In its opinion, the Court ruled that companies under the Federal Trademark Dilution Act have to prove that their famous brand is actually being damaged before they can use dilution law to force another person or company to stop using a word, logo, or color.

Since trademark laws have an effect not only on famous companies but also on the many small businesses with legitimate business interests, any anti-dilution legislation should be very carefully considered so as not to interfere with the rights of small businesses. The goal must be to protect trademarks from subsequent uses that blur, dilute or tarnish that trademark, but it must also be the protection of small business interests from its more powerful corporate counterparts.

Unfortunately, this bill will change trademark law to make it easier for large companies to sue individuals and businesses for trademark dilution, thus potentially creating rights in perpetuity for trademarks. This bill states that no actual harm will have to be proven; large companies will be able arbitrarily to file lawsuits against small businesses and private citizens.

I agree with the Supreme Court in its unanimous decision in *Moseley*. I think that companies in seeking to impose their trademarks upon the public must show actual harm. If not, we run the risk of trademark owners being able to lock up large portions of our shared language. This open-ended invitation to litigate is especially troubling at a time when even colors and common words can be granted trademark protection.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill.

EFFICIENT ENERGY THROUGH
CERTIFIED TECHNOLOGIES AND
ELECTRICITY RELIABILITY ACT
OF 2005

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Efficient Energy through Certified Technologies and Electricity Reliability (EFFECTER) Act of 2005. I am joined in this effort by a diverse coalition of my colleagues including Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts, as well as Senator SNOWE of Maine and Senator FEINSTEIN of California. This bill is a more developed version of the EFFECTER Act that Mr. MARKEY and I introduced in April 2004.

With the President's Energy Plan currently stalled in the other body, we believe that this bill can deliver on one of the less controversial issues when it comes to energy policy—energy efficiency. I support the President's Energy Plan and voted in favor of H.R. 6 when it came before this body for final passage. It is my hope that this fine legislation will implement a desperately needed energy policy in this country.

My constituents in San Diego suffered through the Energy Crisis during the summer of 2001. The aftershocks of the rolling blackouts and outrageously high energy prices are still being felt. Gas prices in California are currently the highest in the country at over \$2.50 per gallon. We risk another major blackout and continually soaring fuel prices if we choose to wait before enacting a long term energy policy. My constituents, and all the American people, need solutions now. I am introducing this bill in an effort to pass a portion of our long-term energy plan that can produce results now.

In our legislation introduced last year, Congressman MARKEY and I created legislation that would give builders and consumers a reason to construct housing and purchase equipment that not only saves the consumer money in the long run, but also helps save energy. We have taken this idea and have put it into this bill along with other cost-saving provisions. This legislation offers tax incentives to encourage the production and sale of technologically advanced, energy-efficient buildings and equipment. The incentives will reduce peak power demand, which can diffuse the risk of blackouts and high electricity prices. Peak power shortages cost California \$15 billion in 2000 alone.

These tax incentives are performance based, not cost based. One dollar of federal tax incentives for energy efficiency offered today will not be paid until January-April 2005, but manufacturers will respond to the incentives by investing in production facilities for more efficient products immediately. This will promote the creation of competitive markets for new technologies and designs that are not widely available today, but have the possibility of being cost effective to the consumer in the future.

This bill will have the government lead by example by cutting our own energy bills by upgrading our building energy efficiency standards and purchase specifications, and reauthorizing federal Energy Savings Performance

Contracts, which allow private companies to partner with the government for mutually beneficial cost-effective energy savings. Finally, it includes mandatory electricity reliability requirements that address directly the failures that caused the east coast blackout of 2003.

This bill increases the security and reliability of the electric grid, while reducing natural gas and electricity prices by cutting the demand for natural gas and electricity in the near term, as well as in the longer term. Grid security is improved by adopting mandatory standards for operation.

The EFFECTER Act seeks to address two key power supply issues—electric reliability and natural gas prices. Reducing peak electric demand not only eases pressure on the electric grid but also reduces utility demand for natural gas, a major factor that has led to higher prices. Over the next ten years, this legislation can produce natural gas savings of over 3.3 quads annually—over 12 percent of total gas use; and peak electricity savings of 145,000 megawatts—equivalent to 350 new power plants of 400 MW capacity.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in supporting the EFFECTER Act which will help reduce energy needs and provide for a cleaner environment. Let's respond to our country's desperate needs today, before we have another energy crisis.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF MARY JOYCE YOUNG, MAR-
ION HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER OF
THE YEAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of Mary Joyce Young, Marion High School Teacher of the Year.

Mary Joyce Young came to the profession of teaching late in life. She worked in a medical office for 25 years before returning to Southwest Texas State University to receive her Bachelor's and Master's degrees. She has taught at Marion High School since her graduation in 1988.

Ms. Young believes in teaching her students more than facts and figures. She aims to teach them character traits that will benefit them for the rest of their lives: self-discipline, integrity, and fairness in the home and the workplace. She says that her work is to create well-rounded citizens, as well as successful students.

Ms. Young teaches four subjects at Marion High School: Senior English, British Literature, Government-Economics, and Creative Writing. She loves her subjects, and works every day to teach her students to love them as well.

Mary Joyce Young is an excellent educator, who has changed the lives of many Marion High School students for the better. She is a credit to her community, and a blessing to the people of Marion. I am proud to have had the chance to recognize her here today.

TRIBUTE TO THE REVEREND DR.
JOHN ROBERTS

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the Reverend Dr. John Roberts of Toledo for his 40 years of service in Jesus Christ. Our community will join his congregation in celebration of this milestone on April 3, 2005.

Born in Bryant, Mississippi on March 9, 1927 to George and Melvina Roberts, John E. Roberts came to Toledo, Ohio in 1944. Here he attended Libbey and Scott High Schools. When Indiana Avenue Baptist Church was organized in 1946 he was there, and has been active in the church ever since. Prior to his ordination in 1964, Pastor Roberts served his church as custodian, Sunday school teacher, choir member, Trustee Board Secretary, and Deacon. After receiving his ordination, Pastor Roberts preached his first service at the church he helped to organize on the 3rd Sunday of January 1965. Even while Pastor, he pursued his Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Religious Education degrees in 1975, his Master of Theology in 1984, and his Doctorate in Biblical Theology in 1985. All of this, in addition to working a second job in order to contribute to the financing of the church structure. Pastor Roberts truly has led his congregation by example, and he acknowledges that his achievements were obtained under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Pastor Roberts' tenure at Indiana Avenue Baptist Church has been most noteworthy. Under his leadership, the Christian Board of Education was organized and so were the Junior Church, Couples Fellowship, Singles Fellowship, Widows Fellowship, Recreation Department, Youth Department and Young Adult Department. He has ministered, counseled, taught and led a congregation numbering in the thousands. It has been noted that Pastor Roberts "has opened the eyes of many who were stumbling in spiritual darkness and led them to the light through the study of the Word of God." His theological mastery is complemented by an extraordinary sense of humor and good nature that lifts the spirits of all people whom he encounters. He is a man of God walking among all the people.

A strong and much respected community leader, Pastor Roberts is also an active participant in the Toledo Public Schools PTA, International Ministerial Alliance, Baptist Ministers Conference, and NAACP Lifetime Member. He has also served on the Boards of the Urban League, the J. Frank Troy Senior Citizens Center, and the Frederick Douglass Community Center and served on the Interracial Coalition Committee and the co-chaired the Alcohol and Substance Abuse Task Force Council. His opinion and counsel are highly valued, and he has been asked by civic leaders both past and present to serve on many special commissions.

Despite his community and church commitments, Pastor Roberts' first devotion is to his wife and family. He credits much of his success to his wife, Bernice, to whom he has been married for 55 years. Together they have raised three sons and have five grandchildren.

It is impossible to characterize the life of so great a man into a few short lines of a

RECORD entry. Perhaps no finer tribute may be made than that of the belief of those who know him best that Pastor Roberts is "a man sent by God to lift men's faith, hope, and love."

ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 6) to ensure jobs for our future with secure, affordable, and reliable energy;

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Castle-Markey amendment to strike Section 320 of H.R. 6.

The bill that the Committee reported last week provides the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) the authority to approve LNG import terminals. Although this provision allows FERC to consult with state governments, this signals a departure from current law whereby states and localities play a significant role in siting decisions. Protecting the health, welfare, and safety of the surrounding communities—as well as preserving the environment and not disturbing commerce—are critical factors when determining where to site an LNG facility. Let me ask: who knows better than the local officials how a proposed facility will affect their area? To diminish their role in the process, as this provision will, only does a disservice to our constituents who trust us to act wisely on their behalf. At a time when there is a proliferation of onshore and offshore proposed LNG projects, and as there currently exists no framework to make sure that we are meeting our national demand for natural gas in a way that makes sense and best meets the regional needs of American communities, Congress should be strengthening the rights of those in our cities and towns and ensuring they have a vocal and viable role in the process. Section 320 does the opposite. I believe it should be struck from the bill, and urge my colleagues' support for the Castle-Markey amendment.

Section 320 is one of a number of provisions in H.R. 6 that tramples on the rights of states:

This bill provides unnecessary liability protections for manufacturers of MTBE, thus forcing the clean-up cost of drinking-water Contamination to states and localities instead of sending the bill where it belongs: to the polluters themselves. This legislation doesn't just reward polluters, it pays them—giving the MTBE production companies \$1.75 billion in so-called "transition costs" as the pollutant is phased out by 2015. That is irresponsible and fundamentally unfair to the American taxpayers.

The bill also repeals the Public Utility Holding Company Act (PUHCA). PUHCA limits the geographic size and types of subsidiaries energy companies can operate. The law is necessary to help states regulate large, multi-state electricity companies by keeping their corporate structures transparent. Without PUHCA, states will find themselves helpless to protect their consumers against the actions of scandalous energy companies like Enron.

This bill grants the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) jurisdiction over reliability standards for electricity transmission networks, allowing the FERC to approve new power lines over states' objections. It abolishes states' rights to meaningful input and participation in decisions over power lines and transmission networks.

The bill also fails to recognize and reflect successful practices being put into use at the state level. Initiatives like California's plan to limit carbon dioxide emissions from automobiles and New York's efforts to organize a consortium of Northeastern states to begin reducing power-plant emissions show promise and ought to be promoted on the federal level.

We had the chance to encourage state innovation with this bill, but its authors and GOP Leadership squandered that opportunity. I am a co-sponsor of Rep. TOM UDALL's renewable portfolio standard bill (H.R. 983), which was offered as an amendment to the energy bill before the Rules Committee but was not made in order. This amendment would establish a state renewable energy account program along with setting guidelines for a renewable portfolio standard. Another missed opportunity here means another missed opportunity to enlist the states as our partners in promoting innovative energy programs to lead us toward a stable energy future instead of undermining states' rights.

This bill also deals a serious blow to the environment. Longstanding public health and environmental laws are under assault in this bill.

Saturday's New York Times reported that H.R. 6 includes a provision that, should it become enacted into law, would constitute one of the most sweeping changes to the Clean Air Act in 15 years. The provision would allow communities to delay cleaning up their dirty air, and complying with national air quality standards, if their pollution is derived from other heavily concentrated areas. This undermines the intent of the Clean Air Act and may lead to increased cases of asthma, which, according to the EPA, already afflicts 20 million Americans, including 6.3 million children.

Hydraulic fracturing, an invasive oil and gas recovery technique, that may contaminate drinking water has been removed from the Safe Drinking Water Act. News reports indicate that the Halliburton Corporation is the largest practitioner of hydraulic fracturing and has been lobbying for this provision.

Rather than seizing an opportunity to address skyrocketing gas prices (the average price is \$2.28), reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and foreign oil, improve our fuel efficiency standards, and bolster the incentives to develop and utilize alternative energy sources, the energy bill before us today upholds the unacceptable status-quo and exacerbates our many current problems, as it:

Authorizes \$8 billion in tax breaks for oil, gas, and nuclear companies, while directing less than \$600 million to promote renewable energy and conservation-related initiatives;

Opens Alaska to oil drilling, although the U.S. Geological Survey projects that the Arctic Refuge has only approximately 3.2 billion barrels of economically recoverable oil, equivalent to what the U.S. consumes in less than 6 months, and would take between 10 and 12 years to introduce the oil into the marketplace; and

Exempts companies drilling on public lands from paying royalties for oil and natural gas

extracted from public lands, which is required under current law and has resulted in billions in additional revenue for states over the past five years.

The bottom-line with this bill, however, is that—as its previous incarnations have done—it reinforces the wrong priorities at the expense of consumers, the environment, and American taxpayers. I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 6.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE
HITCHHIKERS, ROBOTICS TEAM 481

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Hitchhikers, Robotics Team 481, from my congressional district in California. This team won the Engineering Inspiration Award in March of 2005 at the Portland, Oregon, Pacific Northwest Regional Robotics Competition. This award honors success in advancing the science of robotics. By winning this award, the Hitchhikers, Robotics Team 481, qualified to compete in the Championship Robotics Competition in Atlanta, Georgia, where they came in second out of 52 teams in the first round of competition.

The Hitchhikers were created in an independent study course at Contra Costa College, San Pablo, California in the fall of 2002. Under the stewardship of Tom Murphy, a contra Costa College Instructor, Middle College formed its own FIRST robotics team, based on a commitment that the students would build a robot from the ground up. In December 2002, a grant from Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers provided initial funding for the Hitchhikers, and the team received its first robot-building supplies in January 2003. In 2004, budget woes triggered a merge with another award-winning team at nearby De Anza High School, with the hopes of keeping robotics alive for students throughout the school district. The students of the merged team resolved to keep De Anza's number 481 and Middle College's name "The Hitchhikers" as a sign of their unity. Since then, the team has connected with local and national supporters. Other sponsors of The Hitchhikers, Team 481, are NASA Robotics Education Project, the Ed Fund (West Contra Costa Public Education Fund), Chevron Richmond Refinery, TAP Plastics of El Cerrito, Planner's Collaborative of Boston, MA and Honda of El Cerrito.

The majority of Robotics Team 481's members are sophomores, juniors and seniors at Middle College, located on the Contra Costa College campus in San Pablo, California. Students also come from nearby De Anza, El Cerrito, and Pinole Valley high schools. The Middle College robotics team was created to help its members learn and understand scientific and engineering concepts while building team- and group-work skills. The Hitchhikers, Robotics Team 481, have managed to accomplish all this and have fun at the same time.

The Hitchhikers, Robotics Team 481, competed in the FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) National Championship in the Georgia Dome, Atlanta Georgia, April 21–23. FIRST, For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology, is an organization founded

on the sole principle of inspiring young people to find an interest in Science and Technology and using this knowledge in all aspects of life.

Please join me in saluting The Hitchhikers, Robotics Team 481 on their excellent performance in this national robotics competition.

CONGRATULATING PARIS JUNIOR
COLLEGE ON WINNING NATIONAL
BASKETBALL TITLE

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the Paris Junior College Dragons on winning the 2005 National Junior College Athletic Association Division I Men's Basketball championship on March 26 in Hutchinson, Kansas. This was the biggest win in the school's history and only the second trip for the Dragons to the national tournament, some 46 years from their first visit in 1959.

The Dragons ended their season with nine consecutive wins and set a school record with 28 victories in a season. They were unranked in the national tournament and beat two ranked teams before taking on 16th-ranked Moberly Area Community College, Mo., during the NJCAA Division I Men's Tournament championship game. They won by a score of 70–61.

Paris Junior College coach Bill Foy won the Coach of the Tournament award and subsequently was named the National Association of Basketball Coaches Junior College Coach of the Year. Rod Earls was named the William E. French Most Valuable Player, averaging 13 points a game to lead Paris Junior College in scoring and contributing 10 points in the championship game. Alexander Starr received the Charles Fesher Sportsmanship Award and scored 10 points in the tournament final. Mike Battle scored 5 points in the final game and also was named to the all-tournament team.

The leading scorer for Paris was Lamar Searight with 18 points. Other players who contributed to the victory included Brian Burrell, Donnell Franklyn, Rickey Quarles, Bobby Joshua, Tyler Best and Charles Stoker. Joel Green and Albert Reese also are members of the team.

Coach Foy also acknowledged all those whose efforts and support contributed to the team's outstanding season: Assistant Coach Brad Enright, Athletic Director Jim Moffitt, Dr. Pam Anglin, President, and student assistants Tyler Easthouse and Patrick Thompson, among others.

Mr. Speaker, the faculty and students at Paris Junior College, local citizens and loyal fans in Northeast Texas take great pride in their National Junior College Basketball Championship team. I want to take this opportunity in the House of Representatives to congratulate the Paris Junior College basketball players and coaches for their spectacular victory, commend them for their hard work and determination, and wish them continued success.

IN HONOR OF LARRY L. WEYERS

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize before this body Mr. Larry Weyers, who on May 2nd will be named the 2005 Free Enterprise Award winner by the Rotary Foundation of Green Bay.

For the last 23 years, the Green Bay Rotary has honored one Brown County resident who has demonstrated leadership in local charitable, civic, government or service programs, while helping expand business and employment throughout the area. In other words, the award winner is someone who exemplifies American free enterprise.

This year, Larry Weyers earned that distinguished honor. As the Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of WPS Resources Corporation, Larry has helped his company grow to become one of the most successful businesses in Wisconsin. Under his leadership, corporate assets at WPS have nearly tripled, revenues have quadrupled, net income has tripled, and the company's market value has doubled.

But the success of WPS under Larry's direction is secondary to his role in the community. As an active member of dozens of charitable and civic groups, Larry has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of his neighbors. His commitment to the city of Green Bay and Brown County serves as an example to us all.

Mr. Speaker, I can think of no better individual to receive this award than Larry Weyers, and on behalf of the citizens of Wisconsin's Eighth Congressional District I say congratulations.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF BLACKSTONE DILWORTH

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the tremendous achievements of Blackstone Dilworth, Junior Achievement of Laredo Business Hall of Fame Laureate.

Mr. Dilworth has been a proud resident of Live Oak County, Texas, for more than 50 years, but he has a special place in his heart for the people of Laredo, the city which he has made his second home. He began his career working as a farm and ranch appraiser in the border country of Texas, an area in which his family has worked for many years.

He has managed a series of successful businesses, including a number of ranching operations, oil and gas concerns, a telecommunications construction company, and property development. Throughout his career, he has relied on his belief that opportunity is everywhere, for those who are willing to look. He is known to say: "In every problem, somewhere hidden is an opportunity."

Mr. Dilworth loves to travel, and has a deep appreciation for the culture of South and Central America. He is a member of the Explorers Club of New York. He lives with his wife near

Sandia, and has two children and three grandchildren.

Through his initiative, energy, and audacity, Mr. Blackstone Dilworth has contributed enormously to Texas' economic health and vitality. He is a pillar of the business community, and a model for entrepreneurs everywhere, and I am pleased to have the chance to honor him here today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I missed nine votes on April 20th, 2005 because I was attending an important family event with my 12-year-old daughter. The votes were on amendments to the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (H.R. 6). Had I been present I would have voted yea on rollcall Nos. 115, 116, 117, 118, 120, 121, 122, 123. I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 119.

LOOSEN THE GAS PRICE NOOSE!

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, a gallon of regular gas in San Diego or Imperial Valley has been hovering around the outrageous price of \$2.50, often reaching even higher. Even as the price per barrel of oil declines, the price at our local gas stations stays sky-high.

Every time one of my constituents drives to work, drops a child off at school or drives away on vacation, hard-earned dollars go up in smoke. When our grocery stores have to pay more to get their groceries shipped in, they pass the extra cost on to their shoppers. What's the result? The whopping price of gas is choking our middle and working class—essentially levying a new tax when we can least afford it and boosting the profits of the oil companies!

This is simply unacceptable. We must continue to fight to lower the price of gas and protect consumers. One year ago I called on the Bush Administration to take several steps to loosen the gas price noose, including suspending deliveries to the Strategic Petroleum Reserve; requesting an investigation of market failures and lack of competition; blocking mergers that allow oil companies to manipulate supplies; and implementing strong fuel economy standards to put more efficient and environmentally friendly cars on the road and lower consumption.

An investigation by the Federal Trade Commission in August was inconclusive, and the White House has failed to take any steps to rein in oil companies or reduce gas prices. The energy bill we are considering this week also fails to responsibly tackle this problem, instead offering the same favors to oil companies. In the absence of effective leadership, consumers remain at the mercy of the price-gougers.

That's why I have now appealed directly to the Federal Trade Commission and the Attor-

ney General to launch a broader investigation to determine whether the oil companies have engaged in illegal or anti-competitive practices that contribute to the high gas prices.

Additionally, I am fighting for passage of legislation known as the Gas Price Spike Act, that would implement a windfall tax when oil companies collect excessive profits, provide a tax credit for fuel efficient vehicles, and offer federal grants to reduce mass transit fares.

I call on Congress and the Administration to support me in these efforts to inject fairness and competition into the market and end price gouging at the gas pump!

FLEXIBILITY FOR CHAMPION SCHOOLS ACT

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer the Flexibility for Champion Schools Act (H.R. 1821).

Mr. Speaker, on January 8, 2002, the President signed the No Child Left Behind Act, commonly referred to as N-C-L-B. I was fortunate enough to have served on the House Education and the Workforce Committee, which considered the details of this domestic policy proposal put forth by the President.

The goals of N-C-L-B were and are laudable. According to the Department of Education, the No Child Left Behind Act gives our schools historic education reform based on stronger accountability for results, more freedom for states and communities, encourages proven educational methods, and creates more choices for parents.

However, one of the major tenants of N-C-L-B, its FLEXIBILITY to treat different states fairly while maintaining the goals of the underlying legislation; has not been a priority for the Department. A law that was originally intended to react like a rubber-band, to bend but not break, has unfortunately been implemented rigidly and is intolerant of states like Virginia, who had previously administered high testing and accountability standards.

Mr. Speaker, with any new law, especially one as sweeping as N-C-L-B, some hurdles will have to be overcome. To jump through these hurdles, my colleagues and I have attempted to work with the Department to resolve some of these problems. After meeting with some superintendents in my district, we began a dialogue to work through issues that were specific to states like Virginia, which already had high standards in place.

We recently learned of the Secretary's intent to "take into account each state's unique situation" to implement the law. Earlier this year, the Virginia Department of Education proposed a series of waivers that would allow N-C-L-B's goals to mesh with the state's already high standards. Unfortunately, not less than a week after the Secretary's promises of flexibility, the Department rejected the first request for flexibility—one to waive certain assessments of limited English proficiency students in grades K-1 in reading and writing. Mr. Speaker, these are non-English speakers who are 5 years old. I do not believe this demonstrates the flexibility intended by members who supported N-C-L-B.

Without this flexibility, I believe the law is inefficient and duplicative for parents, teachers, students, and state education officers. So we have reached this point where N-C-L-B needs to have a mechanism to recognize the role of certain states in providing accountability. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, we have stood by too long waiting for this flexibility. Our bill does not "water down" N-L-C-B provisions, or its intent. If certain states do not have strong accountability standards, then N-L-C-B is directed at them. But when we have schools in Virginia passing one standard but failing another, sometimes based solely on the results of one student from one particular subgroup, we need to act.

To address these problems, I offer with my colleagues, Representatives JOANN DAVIS, VIRGIL GOODE, JIM MORAN, THELMA DRAKE and RICK BOUCHER, the Flexibility for Champion Schools Act.

The legislation provides that a State which meets certain requirements shall be granted a waiver from the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) provisions of No Child Left Behind.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF DIANA DAY OF BILL BROWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the exemplary work of Diana Day, Bill Brown Elementary School Teacher of the Year.

Diana Day earned her bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies from Texas A&I in Corpus Christi. Currently serving as a special education teacher in Comal Independent School District, she has over 9 years of experience.

She teaches Behavior Life Skills to students in grades kindergarten through four, and believes in teaching her students how to solve problems. Each child is an individual, and Ms. Day believes that the best way to teach each of them is through a unique approach. She wants to help teach each of her students the joys of reading and learning on their own. Diana Day works hard empowering young minds and teaching them the skills that they need to be successful in school.

I am honored to have the chance to recognize the accomplishments of Diana Day, the Bill Brown Elementary School Teacher of the Year. Her passion for education has helped to ensure that our children are on the right track.

TRIBUTE TO ROELAND PARK, KANSAS, MAYOR LORI HIRONS

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Roeland Park, Kansas, Mayor Lori Hiron, who recently left elective office after 4 years of service as mayor, 8 as a city councilmember and 1 year of service on the Roeland Park zoning appeals board.

Lori Hirons has been a visionary and diligent leader of the city of Roeland Park during her tenure as a public servant. Individuals like her across America regularly make significant commitments of their time, resources and personal patience in order to fill these important roles in local government: we cannot thank them enough for doing so.

During her tenure as mayor, I was privileged to work with Mayor Hirons and Senator SAM BROWNBACK to bring to Roeland Park \$1.25 million in vitally needed Federal funds to improve that city's stormwater management facilities. Additionally, Lori and her husband, Frank, have been longtime advisors to me in my capacity as Representative of Kansas' Third Congressional District and I am proud to consider them close, personal friends as well.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD with these remarks an article recently carried by the Kansas City Star that summarizes Mayor Hirons' lengthy record of service and achievements for Roeland Park. I join with her neighbors in wishing her and Frank all the best as they consider new challenges and I hope she will hear the calling of public service again at a future time.

[From the Kansas City Star, Apr. 20, 2005]

HIRONS HAS MADE A DIFFERENCE IN HER CITY
(By Kara Cowie)

Much has changed in Roeland Park Mayor Lori Hirons' 13 years with the city.

City Council meetings no longer run until 1 a.m. and are more amiable than they used to be. Neighborhoods are now looking forward to much-needed street and storm water improvements. And instead of a vacant Venture plaza, a soon-to-be vibrant shopping center with a Lowe's home improvement store and brand-new Price Chopper is in the works.

It's taken many, many meetings to make it all happen, but Hirons is pleased with the results of her four years as mayor, eight years as a Ward 1 council member and one year on the city's board of zoning appeals.

Now she's ready for a break.

"I don't think I've done anything in government that's superstar status, but I do think I took the road less traveled," Hirons said. "And I always said I never wanted to be carried out of here in a box."

So, after more than a decade of Wednesday night meetings, tonight will be her last. Just after 7:30 p.m., Hirons is to pass on the gavel to Councilman Steve Petrehn, who ran unopposed for the position earlier this month.

City Administrator John Carter is sad to see her go.

"I've been doing this for 30 years, and the last four were the most enjoyable years working with a very good mayor," he said.

What makes Hirons so special, Carter added, is "her caring for her community, her ethics and her desire to do what's right," as well as her "doggedness." Hirons never gave up her dream of seeing the old Venture plaza redeveloped, and she pushed to expand RoeFest and to turn the Roeland Park Community Center into a true community hub, he said.

Hirons, too, is proud of those accomplishments and several others.

"I can look back 12 years and see a real difference," she said. "That gives you a feeling of pride and accomplishment."

But she is quick to point out the credit isn't hers alone. She's worked with several progressive council members who shared her vision for the city.

Councilman Scott Gregory has known Hirons for about 15 years and, although they don't always see eye to eye, Gregory said, they do share a mutual respect.

"Over the years, Lori and I have been just screaming at each other and yet we come through it being able to talk, being able to deal with each other," Gregory said. "I truly believe that she has remained focused and hasn't indulged in intrigue and manipulation."

Hirons is the first to admit that public service isn't a popularity contest, and some council members may think she's too brusque.

"I am very direct; I am very honest," she said. "You've got to be yourself."

Hirons' direct and honest nature is one of the things Mission Mayor Laura McConwell appreciates the most.

"She's approachable and she is straight; you can believe what she says, and she doesn't play games," McConwell said. "Whether I agree or not, it's a lot easier to know where someone's coming from."

Plus, McConwell added: "She's a lot of fun. She's just a dynamo."

Hirons joined the council in 1993 after a one-year stint on the board of zoning appeals and several years' involvement with her church and neighborhood. She was elected mayor in 2001 with 64 percent of the vote.

In that time she's helped secure professional management for the city and a new building for City Hall and the police department. She's also helped set up benefit districts for storm water projects, secure a \$1.2 million federal grant for drainage improvements and implement a city ethics ordinance, which she described as a moral compass for council members.

Still, Hirons said, her biggest accomplishment is the \$31 million Venture plaza redevelopment project, which is expected to boost the city's sales tax base.

"The work I did on that is hopefully my gift to the city," she said.

Now Hirons plans to devote more time to her career as the vice president for public affairs for Citi Cards, a division of Citigroup in Kansas City, and her husband, Frank.

As for politics?

"I don't believe this is the last time you're going to see my name on a ballot, but it won't be in 2006," she said.

**INTRODUCING A BILL TO ENHANCE
THE SECURITY OF THE U.S. PAS-
SENGER AIR TRANSPORTATION
SYSTEM**

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, today Congressman COSTELLO, Congressman DEFAZIO and I have introduced a bill to enhance the security of the U.S. passenger air transportation system—The Airport 5 Screener Technology Improvement Act of 2005. This bill will create a Checkpoint Screening Security Fund for the TSA that will fund \$250 million that has been authorized for the deployment of new checkpoint screening technologies. The bill also provides funds for \$650 million a year, which has been authorized for the installation of in-line baggage screening systems.

Mr. Speaker, last week the Department of Homeland Security Inspector General (DHS IG) and the Government Accountability Office (GAO) both released reports that indicate improvements are still needed in the screening process to ensure that dangerous prohibited items are not being carried on aircraft, or enter the checked baggage system. While the trav-

eling public is more secure today than before September 11th, 2001, airport screeners are not detecting prohibited items at the level we need. Regarding the causes of poor screener performance, the DHS IG stated—

Despite the fact that the majority of screeners with whom our testers came into contact were diligent in the performance of their duties and conscious of the responsibility those duties carry, lack of improvement since our last audit indicates that significant improvement in performance may not be possible without greater use of technology. . . . We encourage TSA to expedite its testing programs and give priority to technologies, such as backscatter x-ray, that will enable the screening workforce to better detect both weapons and explosives.

In response to the DHS IG's findings, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) responded—

We agree with the IG's conclusion that significant improvements in performance will only be possible with the introduction of new technology.

Mr. Speaker, our screening system is failing us because this Congress and this Administration are failing both the screeners and the American traveling public. This Congress has arbitrarily capped the number of airport screeners at 45,000, and has provided neither the resources nor the technology for the screeners to get the job done. It is a failure of leadership and there are no more excuses.

Last year, the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States ("the 9/11 Commission") specifically recommended that the TSA and the Congress "give priority attention to improving the ability of screenings checkpoints to detect explosives on passengers." The Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act (P.L. 108-458) authorized \$250 million for the research and deployment of advanced passenger screening technologies, such as trace portals and backscatter x-ray systems. To date, only about \$30 million has been appropriated specifically for the general deployment of these types of technologies.

The 9/11 Commission also recommended that the TSA "expedite the installation of advanced (in-line) baggage screening equipment." The Chairman of the 9/11 Commission testified before Congress that:

The Commission supports an effort to move explosives units out of airport lobbies and into a secured area where they can be integrated into the process of moving the bags from the check-in counter to the loading area in a seamless, in-line process. This will promote greater security, because: (1) screening machines will not be exposed to the public; (2) screeners will be able to focus on screening bags rather than moving them; and (3) fewer people will be congregated around machines in the public area. Moreover, processing bags from checking to loading through an in-line system is functionally more efficient making travel more convenient as well as more secure.

In addition to these benefits, in-line baggage screening systems have a much higher throughput than stand-alone systems. If we install in-line systems, more bags will be screened by explosive detection systems instead of less reliable, alternative methods.

The TSA and airport operators rely on commitments in letters of intent (LOIs) as their principal method for funding the modification

of airport facilities to incorporate in-line baggage screening systems. The TSA has issued 8 LOIs to cover the costs of installing systems at 9 airports for a total cost to the federal government of \$957.1 million over 4 years. The GAO reports that TSA has estimated that in-line baggage screening systems at the 9 airports that received LOI funding could save the federal government \$1.3 billion over 7 years. TSA further estimated that it could recover its initial investment in the in-line systems at these airports in a little over 1 year.

In total, the GAO reports that 86 of 130 airports surveyed are planning or are considering installing in-line baggage screening systems throughout or at a portion of their airports. Moreover, GAO reports that TSA officials have identified 27 additional airports that they believe would benefit from receiving LOIs for in-line systems because such systems are needed to screen an increasing number of bags due to current or projected growth in passenger traffic. TSA officials stated that without such systems, these airports would not remain in compliance with the congressional mandate to screen all checked baggage using EDS or ETD. Yet, the TSA has also acknowledged that it currently does not have sufficient resources in its budget to fund any additional LOIs. While \$650 million is authorized for the installation of in-line baggage screening systems, annual appropriations have not allowed for any new LOIs to be signed.

Our bill will ensure funding for the screening technology we need. We're collecting over \$1.5 billion a year from the passenger security fee. Our bill will put a portion of that fee into two funds that will guarantee that TSA will spend the authorized amount of \$650 million a year and \$250 million for the installation of in-line baggage screening systems and passenger checkpoint explosive detection respectively.

Mr. Speaker, there is overwhelming evidence in the recommendations, findings and statements of the 9/11 Commission, the DHS IG, GAO and TSA that technology is sorely needed to improve security at our airports. We can no longer plead ignorance nor stand idly by and criticize airport screeners working the front line defense in the war on terror. We must demonstrate the leadership and the political will to do what we know is right and deploy technologies that will help our screeners get the job done, and keep the American public safe and secure. I urge my colleagues to join me in working to pass this important legislation.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF DONNA WILLIAMS OF CAN- YON HIGH SCHOOL

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the numerous accomplishments of Donna Williams, Canyon High School Teacher of the Year.

Donna Williams earned both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Texas State University in San Marcos. She currently works as an Algebra II and Precalculus teacher in the Comal Independent School District.

Donna Williams believes that creative teaching methods work best for teaching math, especially in grades nine through twelve. Her approach is self-described as "open, loud and fun," allowing for an atmosphere that is friendly and conducive to learning.

She also spends her time teaching leadership skills and sponsoring the Student Council. Leadership and mathematics are two of the most important skills for success in later life, and Donna Williams works hard to ensure that our kids get the education that they need for success.

It is an honor to recognize the accomplishments of Donna Williams, Canyon High School Teacher of the Year. Her unique perspective on learning helps to make Comal Independent School District a better place for our students to learn.

CONGRATULATING THE NORTH SHORE MUSIC THEATRE

HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the North Shore Music Theatre at Dunham Woods in Beverly, Massachusetts, which this year is celebrating its fifty-year anniversary.

The North Shore Music Theatre has been entertaining local audiences and visitors since 1955, presenting both classic and innovative musicals in its unique theatre-in-the-round style. When the Theatre first presented *Kiss Me Kate* in the summer of 1955, the audience sat outdoors in canvas seats. Today, theatergoers are entertained in a modern 1,800 seat facility.

For nearly half of its existence, Artistic Director and Executive Producer Jon Kimball has been at the Theatre's helm. In partnership with his dedicated staff and Board of Trustees, Mr. Kimball has turned the North Shore Music Theatre into a nationally-recognized venue, both in terms of its size and the quality of its productions. The theatre was named by *Boston Business Journal* as the 2nd largest performing arts organization in the state for three consecutive years.

As a non-profit organization, the North Shore Music Theatre's mission is to increase the awareness, significance and celebration of musical theater and the performing arts through superb entertainment and educational programs. Each year, the Theatre welcomes 400,000 patrons to its six musical subscription series, an original musical production of *A Christmas Carol* and an acclaimed celebrity concert series. In addition, its award-winning Theatre Arts Academy reaches over 100,000 young people annually, through workshops, outreach and youth performances.

It is appropriate that the House recognize this half-century milestone for the North Shore Music Theatre, which has become one of the anchors of arts and culture in our region. Its contribution to the quality of life for the people of the North Shore and beyond cannot be underestimated.

Congratulations to the North Shore Music Theatre for fifty years of entertainment and education. I'm sure I can speak on behalf of my constituents and neighbors when I say that

we all look forward to sharing in the Theatre's bright future.

RECOGNIZING BOB MANSANARES

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bob Mansanares, one of my fellow Coloradans on the occasion of his retirement from government service. For 32 years Bob has been one of our State's most dedicated public servants.

He began his Federal career in 1973 as a claims representative for the Social Security Administration and went on to become the Regional Director of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs. At the time of his retirement and since July 2001 he has directed the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program.

Bob, born in Del Norte, Colorado, to Martin and Ernestine Mansanares, is the oldest of four siblings. Money was scarce in his home but there was always food, clothing and a roof over his head. Above all he had the things that money cannot buy, love and the support of his family and friends. So while Bob grew up poor he never considered himself a victim or disadvantaged. One of his fondest childhood memories is fishing the streams of the valley with his father. Del Norte is an agricultural rural community and Bob and the family did farm labor as a child, picking potatoes and picking peas for a penny a pound to make ends meet. It was there that Bob acquired his work ethic and his unshakable faith in the working men and women of this country. He went from those humble beginnings to be the first in his family to go to college. In 1968 he was recruited by the Migrant Action Program to attend the University of Colorado at Boulder earning his degree in 1972.

While he was a student in college, Bob was torn between making a lot of money and devoting his life to public service. Fortunately for us, he chose the latter and has spent his entire Federal career in programs that focus on workers benefits and entitlements. He chose to repay in some small measure the debt he felt he owed to the community and to those less fortunate than he. As a former farm worker he became keenly aware of the working poor who had little or no knowledge of the benefits and entitlements available to persons who suffered from work related injuries or disabilities.

Over the course of his 32 year career his work philosophy has always been to make the process easier, to avoid acronyms and technical terminology which many find difficult to understand. Under his purview the process has become more user friendly. This lay approach to claiming benefits has been the key to his many successes. Another of Bob's notable achievements is serving as Commissioner on the Veterans Claims Adjudication Commission to review and write the report of findings, conclusions and recommendations for the disposition of claims to the VA.

The joy of his life has been Mary, his wife of 34 years, and their four children, Nick, Elissa, and David. His oldest daughter, Christie, died tragically in an automobile accident in 2001.

Bob has always been a modest man, avoiding the limelight and the accolades he so richly deserves. That is why I chose to honor him now for a lifetime of service, particularly those who might otherwise get lost in the federal bureaucracy.

Bob's simple philosophy includes "taking it one day at a time," and that is what he plans to do. Bob's mother passed away in 2001 and since then he has been telling his father that if he waited until he retired they would spend many days fishing the streams of his youth in his beloved San Luis Valley. Bob, good luck to you and Martin, may the fish always bite and may the sun always be at your back, as you "take it one day at a time."

Enjoy your retirement.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF STEF PARAMOURE, CANYON
MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER OF
THE YEAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Stef Paramoure, Canyon Middle School Teacher of the Year.

Stef Paramoure received her Bachelor's degree in Multidisciplinary Studies from Texas Lutheran University in Seguin Texas. She is a bright young star in the Comal Independent School District, having taught for only three years before receiving the prestigious Teacher of the Year award.

Working as a seventh grade science teacher has its challenges, but Stef Paramoure is ready to embrace each new day with optimism and enthusiasm. Putting the students first, she works hard to give them the quality of education that they deserve.

She believes strongly in taking a practical approach to learning science. Ms. Paramoure strives to connect the personal lives and experiences of her students to the subject that she is teaching. Though concentrating on a personalized approach, she is able to make science applicable, useful, and understandable to her students.

I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize the skill and accomplishments of one of Comal Independent School District's newest stars. Her recognition as Teacher of the Year is an excellent start to an already distinguished career.

IN MEMORY OF V.G. STRONG

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen of the Fourth District of Texas, Vilo Glen (V.G.) Strong of Mt. Pleasant, who passed away recently after living 92 wonderful, happy years. V.G. was an active and beloved member of his community and will be missed by all those who knew him.

Born in Nebraska to Walter and Mary Schneider Strong, V.G. received his Bachelor of Science degree at Colorado College and

taught high school in Eckley, CO. After marrying Doris Wells in 1938, he returned to college to receive his Masters degree in 1941. During World War II he was a civilian chemist with the War Department in Pine Bluff, AR, and moved to Mt. Pleasant, TX, in the late 1940s to work for the Cotton Belt Railroad. When offered a promotion with the Cotton Belt in another state, V.G. turned down the opportunity and found a new career as a chemical engineer at Lone Star Steel, where he worked twenty years before retiring.

V.G. and his wife of 66 years, Doris, have been active members of the Mt. Pleasant First Presbyterian Church for over 57 years. V.G. served as a deacon and an elder. He was also active in the Lions Club for over 50 years.

V.G. and Doris developed a passion for traveling after his retirement, visiting more than sixty countries and every continent except Antarctica. Their latest adventure was to Scotland and the Shetland Islands with their grandson and his wife just last August. Also in retirement, V.G. turned a hobby into a part-time job. His love for restoring antique lamps resulted in restoring or converting lamps for numerous East Texas antique dealers and customers.

Most importantly, V.G. had a great love for his family—his wife Doris, sons Jerry and Paul, and five grandchildren. One of his grandchildren, Katie Strong, who is director of the Congressional and Public Affairs Division of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce here in Washington, shared with me her admiration for her grandfather. Katie noted that V.G. was a man of his word who helped so many in need—social outcasts, young people who needed encouragement, young adults who needed guidance and direction.

"While his life was not extravagant, it was good, it was full, and most importantly, it was honest. We could all try to be a little more like the man his grandchildren called Pop-Pop," Katie wrote.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize this respected and beloved citizen of the Fourth District of Texas and ask my colleagues to join me in paying our last respects to Vilo Glen Strong. May the memory of his wonderful life and his legacy of kindness continue to bring comfort to his family and friends.

TAIWAN OPPOSITION LEADER
ARRIVES IN CHINA

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, a historic event occurred today in the history of Taiwan-Chinese relations, the Leader of Taiwan's Nationalist Party arrived in China for the first meeting between the party of Chiang Kai-shek and the Communists since the Chinese Civil War "ended" nearly six decades ago.

I know that relations across the Taiwan Straits have been much on the minds of many members of Congress in recent months, especially after the Chinese passed the Taiwanese Anti-Secession Law. Although not an official Taiwanese Government visit, the eight-day trip by Lien Chan does represent an opportunity to test the waters, and put the issue of peaceful co-existence between these two historic antagonists back into the realm of public debate.

Analysts and China-watchers disagreed on whether Lien's trip can help ease Taiwan-China tensions. Some have argued that Chen is simply being used by Communist officials to foster a schism in Taiwanese society. Others, such as Robert L. Downen, a former U.S. State Department Policy Advisor for East Asia during the Reagan administration believe that the Lien Chan can win Beijing's trust and cooperation. Mr. Downen has written an interesting Op-Ed piece supporting his position that is worth considering, and I would like to have the text of Mr. Downen's Op-Ed placed into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD following my statement.

I do not know which side of this debate is right, and I suspect that it will ultimately be left to the judgment of history to decide whether this trip accomplished anything. Nevertheless, a security crisis over Taiwan is something we all must work to avert and perhaps Lien Chen's visit can in some small way persuade the Chinese Government to reconsider their recent actions and return to the "Good Neighbor" policy that has worked so effectively for so long. The quest for peace is worth that small gamble.

BACK ON TRACK

(By Robert L. Downen)

Nearly overlooked in a recent series of pessimistic news stories about rising tensions across the Taiwan Strait is a small but important initiative. Direct, though unofficial talks between senior statesmen of China and Taiwan are about to occur after an interruption of several years. Cross-Strait talks offer a glimmer of hope in an otherwise stormy policy arena. There simply has been too long a delay in direct contact between antagonists in such a sensitive forum as this one. Face to face communication is overdue.

The set of policy actors on both sides has changed substantially since talks last occurred in the 1990s, and post-9/11 global security and political factors form a different environment. The political stalemate between the Chinese mainland and the island of Taiwan is an anachronistic relic of the Cold War demanding attention, and only direct talks will bring about an accommodation. The present leadership in Taipei seems unable to break the icy standoff, and so the opposition Nationalist Party Chairman Lien Chan a former vice president and premier of Taiwan but now a private citizen has accepted an invitation to visit China in April and will meet there with its President Hu Jintao. Lien calls his mission "a trip for peace."

After more than a half-century of deep mistrust between Beijing and Taipei, further estrangement only aggravates the situation politically, militarily, and economically. Direct talks between semi-official representatives of the two sides in the early 1990s did lead to a few practical agreements on handling postal exchanges, fishing disputes, and airline hijackings, as well as a promising agreement to disagree over the meaning of "one China." But that dialogue eventually broke down over statements by public officials and missile tests conducted by China in the Taiwan vicinity. The lapse of time since then has produced additional misunderstandings and stagnation. New governments in both Beijing and Taipei have missed opportunities for contact and occasionally provoked the situation by careless public remarks and behaviors in recent years.

In diplomacy, as in private business, if you are not moving forward you are effectively moving backwards. Inaction is equivalent to regression. Mistrust and lack of confidence on both sides has produced accusations and counter-accusations, fueling arms build-ups

and cross-Strait tensions that increasingly worry the U.S. and its allies. China's recent enactment of an "anti-secession law" and its continuing ballistic missile build-up adjacent to the Strait has produced palpable concern in Washington and European capitals. It has jeopardized the Asian-Pacific region's promising economic development and political stability of recent years.

The time has truly come for bold, creative initiative otherwise known as leadership based on self-confidence, to break the deadlock. The late President Ronald Reagan believed in proactive engagement with adversaries, saying old enemies should "trust but verify" as they reach out and seek to reconcile. Like President Reagan's outreach to the Soviet Union in its final years, the Lien mission proposes to go half-way in extending a gesture of peace, to open a channel of communication to the other side.

Lien's mission is reminiscent of previous milestones when other statesmen chose to reach out to old adversaries at opportune moments in history, often placing their personal reputation and political legacy at risk in the process. His gesture is not unlike that of President Richard Nixon who opened doors for dialogue by visiting China in 1972; or Egyptian President Anwar Sadat who traveled to Jerusalem in 1977 to open discussions with Israel; or even Pope John Paul II who seized the initiative to visit Communist Eastern Europe and later Cuba to open historic new contacts that he believed could change old Cold War relationships.

The international community should welcome this step towards direct unofficial talks between Taiwan and China. Dialogue cultivates mutual understanding, nurtures confidence, builds trust, and creates opportunities for healing wounds and moving forward to break the deadlock. Never underestimate the power of personal engagement the personal touch reduces tensions and prospects for conflict while introducing very human avenues for potential cooperation. There can be no harm in a fresh initiative that energizes the peaceful process across the Strait and promotes the welfare of the people of Taiwan in so many ways.

Americans can cheer the Lien initiative because it serves U.S. interests of peace, international stability, and regional cooperation. It reduces the likelihood that U.S. naval battle groups will once again have to move into the Taiwan vicinity to avert possible conflict between the two sides, as they did in 1996. It greatly improves the prospect that Chinese on both sides of the Taiwan Strait can forge new channels of communication and cooperation, leading eventually to a resolution of one of the world's most dangerous tension spots. Engagement, not estrangement, is the means to reconciliation and stability.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF BARBARA TAYLOR, NORMA KRUEGER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Barbara Taylor for being named Norma Krueger Elementary School Karrer Campus Teacher of the Year.

Ms. Taylor holds a B.S. in Elementary Education from the University of Houston, and a Masters in Special Education from Our Lady

of the Lake University in San Antonio, Texas. She now teaches fifth grade science at the Marion Independent School District.

Barbara Taylor believes that teaching is an ordinary-seeming profession that presents extraordinary opportunities to those willing to look. She asks herself every day what she can do to make a difference in the world, and in the lives of her students. She is known for seeking out teachable moments in which she can show her students a new way of seeing the world.

Ms. Taylor believes that good teaching can be the foundation for extraordinary lives. This philosophy has led her to be one of her district's most energetic and dynamic educators.

Ms. Barbara Taylor is an exemplary teacher, and a tremendous resource for the families and children of Marion, Texas. Her commitment to our children deserves our respect and thanks, and I am happy to have had the chance to recognize her here today.

AMTRAK BOARD'S REORGANIZATION PLAN

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, last week, Amtrak's Board of Directors released a set of "strategic reform initiatives" the railroad would like to take "to revitalize U.S. passenger rail service." The Chairman of the Board suggested these reforms would "strengthen passenger rail service at a time when our nation needs it most."

In my view, which I share with many of my colleagues on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, these reforms are misguided and would doom the future prospects for the railroad, result in significant hardships for rail passengers in the long-term and be a tremendous disservice to the hard-working employees of Amtrak.

It comes as no surprise to me that the Board's proposal is similar to that of the Administration's—Amtrak's entire governing body has been appointed by President Bush. To be clear, if these proposals, both from Amtrak and the Administration, go into effect, Amtrak will not survive. In many cases, the millions of people who depend on Amtrak's services will be left with no reliable means of rail transportation.

Of significant concern is the Board's proposal as it relates to its workers. The Board proposes to alter the Railway Labor Act to enable Amtrak to unilaterally change work rules and contract out jobs. The Board's reforms would also eliminate many health, safety and benefit protections for which Amtrak's workers have fought hard. In addition, under the Board's plan, newly hired Amtrak and other passenger rail workers would be placed in the Social Security program instead of the Railroad Retirement System, which has covered rail workers for more than 70 years.

The Board is attempting to put Amtrak's funding burden on the backs of its hard-working employees and for that I will not stand. To that end, I would like to highlight the introduction of the Amtrak Reauthorization Act of 2005, introduced by Chairman YOUNG and Ranking Member OBERSTAR.

This legislation would provide Amtrak with \$2 billion each year through 2008, and would put the railroad on the track to financial and operational stability. This bill also includes strict funding accountability procedures to ensure contractual obligations are met and money is spent wisely. It is this type of proposal—not the Administration's or Amtrak's Board's plan—that will benefit Amtrak and its passengers in the coming years.

In closing, I urge my colleagues to reject both the Bush Administration's and Amtrak Board's proposals to dismantle Amtrak. They aim only to weaken the railroad, place greater financial burden on the states, and harm the hard-working employees of Amtrak and passenger rail throughout the country.

MEDIA CONSOLIDATION

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to a presentation by Charles Benton, chairman of the Benton Foundation, entitled, "Where's the Public? Media Reform in the Digital Age," which he gave at the Engaging in Democracy Series at Ithaca College on January 25, 2005. It is my hope that Congress will address the problems of media consolidation that Mr. Benton discusses. It is our duty to ensure that the public airwaves are meeting the public need.

"I believe the future of media and communications in America is cause for serious concern. In April 2004, I delivered this message to the Council on Foundations, and I repeat it tonight. As we move from an analog world to a digital one, we are truly at a crossroads. At stake is who controls what we see, hear, and read. At stake is our ability to get our message out and make a difference. At stake is nothing less than the health of our democracy. We all have a stake in this debate.

I come here three months after Representative MAURICE HINCHEY and Federal Communications Commissioner Michael Copps spoke to you about media concentration. Given Congressman HINCHEY's representation of this district, I feel I'm visiting the people who brought the message of media ownership reform to Washington—perhaps you can think of this address as Washington reporting back.

The debate over media ownership restrictions is just the tip of an iceberg that has jolted our time-honored communications policy priorities of competition, diversity and localism. Some would say we are now rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic . . . that media concentration and consolidation are inevitable, and we will drown in a sea of commercialism. But I see it differently. I believe we are embarking on a new journey—kept afloat—and indeed propelled—by the interest, enthusiasm, and energy of a new generation of people concerned about our media future.

Collected in this hall tonight, I hope, are new enlistees in the battle to preserve, protect, and strengthen the public space in America's media environment. Beyond this hall, I hope this message is received by other committed people and organizations who will offer their time, talent, and resources to prevail in this ongoing fight.

By law, as reaffirmed in the Telecommunications Act of 1996, broadcasters have an obligation to serve the public interest. The government provides broadcasters on loan and free of charge exclusive access to a portion of the public airwaves—spectrum—for broadcasting in exchange for their commitment to serve the “public interest, convenience and necessity.”

Under the '96 Act, the amount of spectrum given to television station owners was doubled. The policy rationale for this was to enable them to convert their signals from an analog to a digital format, thereby increasing the number and technical quality of their broadcast channels. For the spectrum needed for one analog channel, broadcasters can now simultaneously air six standard-quality digital channels or one or more high-quality high-definition channels.

When at least 85 percent of homes in a broadcasting market can receive digital signals, the spectrum currently used for analog channels is to be returned to the government for public safety uses, with some spectrum to be auctioned off. Digital television and radio make broadcasting more competitive and valuable in the market, and should enable broadcasters to better serve basic public needs. Remember that broadcasters are supposed to serve as public trustees in their use of the publicly owned airwaves. That at least is the theory on how the system is supposed to work.

Let's look now at the reality, starting with who owns the media. Today, five companies own the broadcast networks, own 90 percent of the top 50 cable networks, and produce 75 percent of all prime time programming. People of color constitute over 30 percent of America, but they own only 4.2 percent of the nation's radio stations and around 1.5 percent of TV stations. The current media landscape already shortchanges our historical commitment to competition, diversity and localism, but in June 2003, a majority of FCC commissioners voted to further weaken it. The FCC decided to relax media concentration safeguards and open the door to a fundamental reshaping of the media landscape. The action would have significantly deregulated broadcast media ownership rules, removing restrictions on the number of outlets a broadcaster could own and control. It would also eliminate “cross ownership” rules that prevented newspapers from buying broadcast stations and vice versa in the same community. The debate leading up to the decision sparked an unprecedented outpouring of public concern over the future of media in America.

Millions of Americans spoke out against relaxing the ownership rules—more than in any other FCC decision to date—yet the FCC acted to allow big media companies to get even bigger—reducing competition at the expense of the public's need for diverse and local content. The sense that the FCC no longer cares about protecting the public interest may have led broadcasters to believe they can get away with more commercialization without protecting the public interest.

But in June of last year, the United States Court of Appeals in Philadelphia reversed the FCC's action. This is a big, big win for diversity, competition and localism in the media, the three stated goals of the FCC. The judges ruled that preserving democracy is more important than freeing big companies to grow

bigger. Perhaps the most important part of the decision is the Court's holding that the FCC improperly applied a presumption in favor of deregulation in its review of the broadcast media ownership rules. Thus, it sent the case back to the FCC for better analysis of public impact. This court action gives the public the chance to argue that ownership rules are necessary for preserving local civic discourse.

In November filings to the Supreme Court, Media General and a coalition of major TV network owners made clear that they are seriously considering challenging the Philadelphia court decision by attacking the bedrock legal rationale for regulating the nation's broadcasters—Red Lion. In the landmark 1969 Red Lion decision, the court held that because broadcasters use a scarce government resource—the radio spectrum—to deliver programming over the air, the FCC is justified in its special regulation of the industry in the public interest. The scarcity argument justifies a range of FCC broadcast regulations, from ownership restrictions to prohibitions on indecent broadcasts. But Red Lion is used as a rationale for regulations that benefit broadcasters, too, including obligations of cable operators to carry the signals of local broadcasters.

Why risk this important commercial benefit? Broadcasters appear sick and tired of FCC regulations limiting their ability to add broadcast stations to their portfolios, regulations punishing them for off-color programming that may seem tame on cable, and regulations requiring them to serve the public interest, not just their commercial interests.

I am confident that even if the Supreme Court hears arguments launched by Media General and others against Red Lion and the “scarcity rationale” for broadcast regulation that the decision's underlying principles will prevail. The most important of these, according to the Supreme Court, is that the First Amendment rights of viewers are paramount.

These giant companies claim that we live in a time of unprecedented media choice: hundreds of TV and radio stations provided by terrestrial broadcasters, cable operators, satellite radio and TV systems, national and local newspapers, and the Internet. But who owns most of this media? You know the names: Time Warner, Fox, Viacom, Disney, GE Universal. Do we really have diverse, competing and local voices?

Additionally, spectrum remains a scarce resource. Wireless telecommunications companies are willing to spend billions—some estimate up to \$100 billion—to start providing services over spectrum currently used by broadcasters. Perhaps if broadcasters are willing to enter auctions for spectrum—like other users are forced to do these days—then they can be freed from what they call burdensome regulation. Until and unless they do so, they should be part of a constructive conversation to spell out their public interest obligations in the digital age.

Some responsible broadcasters are doing just that. As long-time commercial broadcaster Jim Goodmon, who served with me on a Presidential Advisory Committee that examined and made recommendations on digital broadcasters' obligations, puts it, “The broadcast company is fulfilling a contract between itself as the user of a public asset and the public body that owns the asset. As with all contracts, both parties to the agreement need to

know exactly the responsibilities that they have to each other. With minimum standards spelled out, there is no question. As a broadcaster I would like to know what is expected of me in serving the public interest. Required minimum standards and a voluntary code provide the benefit of certainty to broadcasters. I like to know what the rules are.”

Scarcity is not the only argument for regulating broadcasting. Television is ubiquitous and has become the engine of our consumer society. As former FCC Commissioner, Nicholas Johnson, used to say, “TV programs are the flypaper to get people to watch the ads.” Its importance in our democracy is easily highlighted by the vast amounts spent by candidates and organizations on political advertising. It is through these ads, unfortunately, not broadcasters' programming, that most voters learn about candidates and issues.

In exchange for the use of our scarce spectrum, broadcasters have a commitment to serve the “public interest, convenience and necessity.” These basic obligations, called public interest obligations, are critical tools that are designed to ensure that television, at least in part, serves fundamental public needs. Unfortunately the vision and the reality are often at odds.

The FCC has been working on the transition to digital television, at the behest of the nation's broadcasters, for some 20 years. Absent so far has been a comprehensive proposal for establishing public interest obligations that match digital television's capacity.

Americans everywhere have begun to realize that as broadcasters get bigger, the public's benefits are getting smaller. But there is more at stake than the impacts of media concentration and consolidation.

Television has never played a more important role in our lives. But today's television is too often out of touch with today's realities: parents struggling to find educational programming for their children, voters struggling to find basic coverage of local campaigns and elections so vital to our democracy and the effective use of television for emergency alerts to serve needs of the disabled. In each case, broadcasters have too often lost touch with the needs of the people who own the airwaves. We have the right to demand and the FCC has the mandate to ensure that television and radio stations provide programming that is in the public's interest, not just in the owners' commercial interests.

Public interest obligations are about whether our children can turn on a television and find at least three hours per week of truly educational content, about whether in an emergency our televisions can keep us alert and informed. It is about whether we can be active and intelligent participants in our democracy. It's about whether the blind and deaf can access closed captioning and video descriptors for digital works. And about whether we can work towards a day when the voices and views on our airwaves reflect the diversity of our country.

A growing number of Americans are working to ensure these public interest goals are met not just because the law says we must, but because we will be richer as a nation when we do. I hope you will join that fight. The transition from analog to digital television does not just represent a technological change, but an important opportunity to reassess whether the public's airwaves are being used to meet the public's needs.

Last year the Benton Foundation joined forces with two broad coalitions of organizations focused on delivering public dividends with the transition to digital television. Working with these groups, the FCC recently extended a requirement that broadcasters air a minimum of three hours a week of quality educational and instructional programming for children to all of their new digital channels. It is also exploring proposals that would benefit our democratic process and our society by requiring broadcasters to (1) Air a minimum of three hours per week of local civic or electoral affairs programming on the most-watched channel they operate; (2) Promote the FCC's oft-stated goal of diverse viewpoints and voices on television by ensuring that independent producers provide a minimum of 25 percent of their most-watched channel's primetime schedule; and (3) Tell the public how they are serving the interests of their audiences by making this information available in a standardized hard copy and website formats.

These really are minimal requirements, but nonetheless often opposed or ignored by the broadcasters. We are arguing that it's time to put the remote control back into the public's hands and once again give the public greater control over the kind of democracy they participate in, the children they raise, and the security they deserve.

Congress, the courts, regulators and companies are continuing to make communications policy decisions. These decisions will have far-reaching consequences for competition and innovation and ultimately consumer well-being in the media marketplace. While public concern was raised over the FCC's media ownership decisions, too few individuals are aware that broadcasters are obligated to serve them—or that they can get involved in ensuring they do. For those who understand the crucial role of media in this democracy, our first task is to inform and educate the public about this debate and the right of all Americans to participate in it.

In addition to a clearer television picture, consumers need a clearer regulatory picture for how the digital television transition will impact their lives. Consumers deserve to know how broadcasters will serve their day to day television needs—healthy programming for children, healthy programming for our democracy, and healthy programming for our communities. Citizens need as much information about the TV that comes into our living rooms, as about the food that comes into our kitchens.

But to achieve these goals, parents, voters, community leaders, activists, and concerned citizens need to pick up the television policy remote control—and change the tune coming from policymakers in Washington. It takes letting policymakers know that you want reality based public interest obligations that can help make a difference in your lives.

The first product of a coalition of national and local media advocates is a Citizens' Bill of Media Rights—a positive statement of principles and goals of a media reform movement. The Bill has recently been circulated for sign-on. If my message tonight makes you want to get involved, here's the first thing you can do: Read "Citizens' Bill of Media Rights," go on-line, and sign-on.

At the Benton Foundation, we are releasing the Citizen's Guide to the Public Interest Obligations of Digital Television Broadcasters. Our

guide will serve as a primer for the organizations and people considering taking the policy remote control out of the hands of media giants and their lobbyists and returning it where it belongs—in the hands of the American people, especially in your community. Action item two: check www.benton.org for the guide.

This year in mid-May, activists, media creators, academics, and policy makers will meet for three days of learning, sharing, networking and momentum building at the 2nd 2005 National Conference for Media Reform in Saint Louis. Visit www.freepress.net for more information. Action item three: Meet Me In Saint Louis.

There are many valuable resources for keeping up to date on what's going on in media policy—let me highlight two. At the Benton Foundation, we provide a service which summarizes the top communications policy stories of the day. The service, Communications-Related Headlines, is delivered via e-mail and is also available on our web site free of charge, www.benton.org. Action item four: subscribe to Headlines.

HearUsNow.org follows Consumers Union's long tradition of promoting a fair and just marketplace by empowering consumers to fight for better and more affordable telephone, cable and Internet services or equipment. By focusing on major media, technology and communications issues and emphasizing local stories, HearUsNow.org will help explain increasingly complex issues and the connections between these issues, underscore what's at stake, and offer ways to make improvements. Action item five: Visit www.hearushnow.org.

Obviously, when working against corporate interests ready to devote billions of dollars to their cause, even more resources will be needed to win the day. Last April, I delivered this message to an audience of philanthropists asking them to fund the ongoing efforts to shape our media future . . . to fund media policy research, education and advocacy. I am happy to say that there's hope coming from this important arena: The Arca Foundation board has committed \$1 million—\$1.5 million per year for the next 3–5 years to a strategic media policy campaign for policy advocacy, organizing, research and content development. With Ford Foundation leadership, the Grantmakers in Film and Electronic Media's new Working Group on Electronic Media Policy was formed to respond to the burgeoning interest among grantmakers to build and share knowledge about key issues in media policy, as well as undertake targeted activities to help advance the dynamic media policy field. All participants hope that this funder cooperation will result in real capacity building for the media reform field.

Several members of Congress, including Representative HINCHEY, are forming a Congressional Media Reform Caucus this month to focus on media ownership, digital transition, and other media-related issues. Last year, Representative HINCHEY introduced the Media Ownership Reform Act. This proposed legislation has three goals: (1) To curb the deregulatory zeal of the Republican majority at the FCC; (2) To restore the Fairness Doctrine; and (3) To reform the broadcast license renewal process and require broadcasters to report both on their public interest performance and their plans for doing so every two years. In today's political climate, the legislation may seem improbable. But most significantly, it

provides a vision of where we'll be when we have true democratic media reform in this country.

Again, we're at a crossroads. Left to its own designs, the majority at the FCC will fight to allow greater consolidation in media ownership while further weakening public interest obligations. With public pressure, with your participation, we may help the FCC envision a democratic media future. In this alternative vision, we, as Americans, could have a media environment that delivers a vigorous, uninhibited marketplace of ideas. In this alternative vision, we could have a media that reflects and responds to local communities. In this alternative vision, we could have a media environment that embraces and enhances the public interest.

Wouldn't you like to be part of that debate and help shape this more democratic and more open media environment? If so, why not join us and get involved?"

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF SUSAN HARTLEY, BURGESS DISCIPLINE ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the many accomplishments of Susan Hartley, Burgess Discipline Alternative School Teacher of the Year.

Ms. Hartley has a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Science from Arizona State University, and a Teacher Certification from Ottawa University. She is a relatively new teacher—she has been teaching for 5 years, all of them spent at the Seguin Independent School District.

Ms. Hartley teaches Science and Health to grades 7 through 12. She deals with what can often be a difficult and stressful job in a counterintuitive way: her goal is to make school fun, for herself and her students.

She believes that students learn best when they are enjoying themselves. Her at-risk students are often disconnected from the school or community. She feels that her role is to help these students find ways to reconnect with others. Students who feel like they are part of the community are less likely to be in trouble, and more likely to go on to a successful future.

Ms. Hartley's work with at-risk youth has already distinguished her as one of her school district's most valuable teachers. In her 5 years, she has made a difference in the life of many students, and in the life of her community. She has a bright future ahead of her, and I am happy to have had this opportunity to recognize her.

TRIBUTE TO RUTH VAN GERPEN AND THE ONCOLOGY NURSING SOCIETY

HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Oncology Nursing Society

(Oncology Nurse Ruth Van Gerpen. Oncology nurses play an important and essential role in providing quality cancer care. These nurses are principally involved in the administration and monitoring of chemotherapy and the associated side-effects patients experience. As anyone ever treated for cancer will tell you, oncology nurses are intelligent, well-trained, highly skilled, kind-hearted angels who provide quality clinical, psychosocial and supportive care to patients and their families. In short, they are integral to our nation's cancer care delivery system. ONS has five chapters that serve the oncology nurses of Nebraska and help them continue to provide the best possible cancer care to patients and their families in our state.

On behalf of the people with cancer and their families in Nebraska's First Congressional District, I would like to specifically acknowledge Ruth Van Gerpen for her leadership within the Oncology Nursing Society as a member of the ONS Board of Directors. Ruth is a clinical nurse specialist (CNS) for oncology at BryanLGH Medical Center in Lincoln, Nebraska. She has been an RN for 28 years and has devoted 20 of those years to oncology nursing. Ruth works to improve patient outcomes, enhance professional and consumer awareness, and educate and support newly diagnosed individuals and their families. Through Ruth's and ONS' leadership, our nation is charting a course that will help us win the war on cancer.

Cancer is a complex, multifaceted and chronic disease, and people with cancer are best served by a multidisciplinary health care team specialized in oncology care, including nurses who are certified in that specialty. According to the American Cancer Society, one in three women and one in two men will receive a diagnosis of cancer at some point in their lives, and one out of every four deaths in the United States results from cancer. This year approximately 1.37 million people will be diagnosed with cancer and another 570,000 will lose their battles with this terrible disease. Every day, oncology nurses such as Ruth see the pain and suffering caused by cancer and understand the physical, emotional, and financial challenges that people with cancer face throughout their diagnosis and treatment.

Today, more than two-thirds of cancer cases strike people over the age of 65, and the number of cancer cases diagnosed among senior citizens is projected to double by 2030. At the same time, many of the community-based cancer centers are facing significant barriers in hiring the specialized oncology nurses they need to treat cancer patients. We are on the verge of a major national nursing shortage, and it is estimated that there will be a shortage of 1.1 million nurses in the year 2015.

The Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) is the largest organization of oncology health professionals in the world, with more than 31,000 registered nurses and other health care professionals. Since 1975, the Oncology Nursing Society has been dedicated to excellence in patient care, teaching, research, administration and education in the field of oncology. The Society's mission is to promote excellence in oncology nursing and quality cancer care. To that end, ONS honors and maintains nursing's historical and essential commitment to advocacy for the public good by providing nurses and healthcare professionals with access to

the highest quality educational programs, cancer-care resources, research opportunities and networks for peer support.

I commend Ruth Van Gerpen for her leadership and ongoing commitment to improving and assuring access to quality cancer care for cancer patients and their families, and I urge my colleagues to support oncology nurses in their important endeavors.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF ARCHBISHOP IAKOVOS

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of His Eminence, Archbishop Iakovos, who faithfully led the Greek Orthodox Church in North and South America for over thirty years. With his passing on April 10th, the world lost a great spiritual leader and humanitarian who desired peace and unity between all nations and religions.

Archbishop Iakovos, who was born as Demetrios Coucouzis on July 29, 1911, first set foot on American shores in 1939, after graduating from the Halki Theological Seminary. In 1945 he received a graduate degree from Harvard Theological Seminary and five years later he became an official U.S. citizen.

When Archbishop Iakovos became the leader of the Orthodox faithful in 1959, he made it his goal to bring the church into mainstream life for his followers. In the spirit of incorporating Greek Orthodoxy in America, he encouraged the use of English in the liturgy, set up dialogues with other Christian denominations, as well as Jewish and Muslim leaders, and became the first Archbishop to meet with a Roman Catholic Pope in 350 years.

As a humanitarian, Archbishop Iakovos also became very interested in political issues, particularly those impacting human and civil rights. He regularly visited the White House and met with every U.S. president from Eisenhower to Clinton. His strong vision for peace compelled him to voice his opposition to the Vietnam War, support for the rights of Soviet Jews, and encouragement for the Middle East Peace process. As a champion of social causes, he will forever be remembered for assisting the civil rights movement in America by marching in 1965 with Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Selma, Alabama.

Throughout his career, Archbishop Iakovos was highly honored for his work. In 1980, former President Jimmy Carter awarded him the Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor. He served on the World Council of Churches and also was awarded honorary degrees from over forty colleges and universities.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the life and legacy of Archbishop Iakovos, who through faithful leadership brought the ideas of faith, equality, peace, and unity to the forefront of the world's political and religious stage.

CONTRIBUTIONS OF CELIA
BARRAGAN OF CANYON INTER-
MEDIATE SCHOOL

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the many, accomplishments of Celia Barragan, Canyon High School Teacher of the Year.

Celia Barragan received both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Texas State University in San Marcos. She currently teaches fourth grade in Comal Independent School District. With over twenty-eight years of experience in teaching, she understands the unique needs of our kids.

She personally believes that the two most important qualities that can be nurtured are "positive self-esteem" and "responsibility". Teaching young people to place value in these virtues is important for skills and development later in life. With a long and distinguished career, Celia Barragan has helped generations of our students to excel in school.

I am proud to have this opportunity to honor the contributions of Celia Barragan, the Canyon Intermediate School Teacher of the Year. Her many years of passionate service have been a blessing to the Comal community.

LONGFORD WATER COMPANY, LLC

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of the citizens of Longford, Kansas in their work to create and support Longford Water Company, LLC.

For years, this town of 89 people has had a reputation for providing high quality, good tasting water. Road signs near the community advised, "For Good Health and Longevity Drink Longford Water, Kansas Purest." Groundwater from Longford is clean and soft because it is naturally filtered by a distinctive group of underground rocks known as the Kiowa Formation. Years ago, communities used to compete at the Kansas State Fair regarding the quality of their water. Water from Longford was a frequent winner.

More than a year and a half ago, a group of local individuals formed Longford Water Company, LLC. The reason: to research the possibility of capitalizing on Longford's reputation for high quality water by bottling it for sale. They discovered that most of the bottled water for sale has been treated by reverse osmosis, a process used to purify water through removal of unwanted chemicals. This procedure is expensive and removes natural minerals from the water that contribute to good physical health. Due to its high quality, Longford water does not need to be subjected to this added expense.

Following extensive research, the company took the following actions: announced that the production facility will be located in Longford; agreed to purchase water from the City of Longford; in order to minimize marketing and shipping costs, established a marketing distribution system that focuses on a 50-mile

area around the community; selected KIWATA as the marketing name for the water and financed the entire project through private funds.

Because of this team effort, The Longford Water Company is now ready to produce, market and distribute KIWATA water. According to Wava Kramer, president of the board of managers, the company has raised the real estate tax base of the city, provided local employment and contributed to the positive image of the Longford community.

Ms. Kramer also noted the entire effort has resulted in other benefits. "Langford water has been long known as nature's finest gift to Kansas," said Kramer. "Another gift is that the process of creating Longford Water Company has brought our community together. Our town is small in size but big in spirit."

For rural communities to survive and prosper into the future, citizens must be willing to create their own opportunities for success. The Longford Water Company is an example of how hard work, innovation, professional management and community pride can create just such an opportunity.

Citizens throughout the First Congressional District of Kansas are working together to enhance the quality of life in their communities. Longford Water Company, LLC is a success story that demonstrates how teamwork and creative thinking can make a positive difference in rural America.

HONORING DELTA COLLEGE
PRESIDENT DOCTOR PETER D.
BOYSE

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, Mr. CAMP, Mr. STUPAK and I rise together to pay tribute to Dr. Peter D. Boyse, a visionary educator who will retire July 31, 2005, after 17 years of dedicated service to Delta College and the community it serves. Friends and colleagues will gather June 10 to honor his dedication and his many accomplishments.

Dr. Boyse came to Delta College in July 1988 as executive vice president and became president in January 1993. During his tenure, Delta College has completed a \$26 million renovation of its computer and science laboratories, and its library, and a \$42 million renovation and addition to its Technical Trade and Manufacturing Complex. These renovations place Delta College on the cutting edge of training for tomorrow's jobs in the sciences and in manufacturing.

Delta College, which serves the people of Bay County, Midland County and Saginaw County, as well as many others from surrounding counties in Mid-Michigan, has grown to be one of our Nation's leading community colleges under the guidance of Dr. Boyse. Support for Delta College within that community is demonstrated by the passage of a renewal of an operating millage with an unprecedented 70 percent approval.

Dr. Boyse's visionary leadership has brought about growth in both the size and stature of Delta College. Through its Corporate Services arm, the college has helped people all across the United States to grow

and succeed in their careers. His influence as an administrator and a leader in the field of higher education will be felt for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, we ask that all of our colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join us today in recognizing Dr. Peter D. Boyse for his exceptional leadership. His guiding hand has helped shape Delta College into a truly world class institution of higher education. We wish Dr. Boyse all the best in retirement and hope for his continued involvement in our community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ERICH R.
WEBER, OWNER OF WEBER'S
BAKERY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of a member of my community who truly exemplified the dedication and hard work required of his ancient profession.

As the longtime owner and operator of a popular Chicago neighborhood bakery, Erich R. Weber never knew an easy day.

For many years, the Chicago native would begin his workday at 2 a.m., breaking by mid-afternoon to have dinner with his family, then returning to the bakery later in the evening. Family members said that in addition to keeping the business side running, he was also the baker behind many of the pastries that disappeared quickly from the shelves.

"He was first and foremost a baker," said his son Michael. "He wore his whites every day."

Mr. Weber, age 71, the longtime owner of Weber's Bakery on the Southwest Side, died April 7, 2005.

Mr. Weber graduated from St. Rita High School in 1951. He received a bachelor's degree in baking science and management from Florida State University in Tallahassee in 1955. That same year he married his wife of 49 years, Bernadine, a fellow student.

Mr. Weber learned to bake from his father, a German immigrant, who founded the bakery in Chicago in 1930. Originally on Kedzie Avenue, the bakery moved in the 1940s to 63rd Street, and in 1979 to 7055 W. Archer Ave. in the Garfield Ridge neighborhood.

After serving 2 years in the Air Force during the late 1950s, Mr. Weber returned to Chicago, where he joined his father at the bakery. For several years, father and son served as co-presidents of the Chicago Lawn Chamber of Commerce.

"With his college background, my father brought an understanding of the business end of things," said Mr. Weber's son, Michael, who now owns and operates the bakery. "He was technology wise and willing to take chances."

Family members said that when more Hispanic residents moved into the bakery's neighborhood, Mr. Weber introduced more ethnic pastries such as tres leche cake, or three milk cake, which became popular with his customers.

"He was very good at adapting to the changing needs and times of the neighborhood, but he never gave in to trends," his son said.

The father of seven sons, including his late son, David, Mr. Weber often sought the help of family at the bakery, especially during holidays.

"One of my fondest memories is of Dad and me rolling hundreds of loaves of bread during Holy Week at Easter time, and all before the sun came up," said his son Michael. "It was a chance to be alone with him and just talk."

After retiring in 1996, Mr. Weber spent much of his time traveling with his wife and enjoying winters at his home in Naples, FL.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my heartfelt condolences to Mrs. Weber and Mike Weber, as well as Mr. Weber's five other sons, Mark, Paul, Phillip, Stephen and Kurt; his brother, Gilbert; and his 21 grandchildren.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF BARBARA KEMPER-NOLAN

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the many accomplishments of Barbara Kemper-Nolan, Saegert sixth grade teacher.

Ms. Kemper-Nolan is a sixth grade teacher specializing in resource math and language arts. She has two years of teaching experience in the Seguin Independent School District, five years as an instructional aide and one year as a substitute. With her short time at Saegert she has already started to make an impact on her students.

Ms. Kemper-Nolan has a Bachelor of Science in Psychology, a Master of Counseling from Arizona State University, and a Special Education Alternative Certification in grades prekindergarten through twelve.

When Ms. Kemper-Nolan was asked, "why would someone choose to work with some of the most challenging students who are faced with daunting intellectual and emotional obstacles," she quickly replied that "there is no greater feeling than watching the light go on in the eyes of a child, especially a child who has given up on him or herself . . . one teachable moment at a time."

Through her initiative, energy, and audacity, Ms. Kemper-Nolan proves to be an exemplary teacher, and a blessing to the people in her community. She has an excellent career ahead of her, and I wish her the best of luck.

IN MEMORY OF STAR NUCKOLLS

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, the greatest sadness for most of us is the loss of a child, and today I want to honor the life and help preserve the memory of Star Nuckolls of Sulphur Springs, Texas, whose life ended on February 7. Star was four years old. Her life and her struggle captured the hearts of hundreds in her community and throughout the Nation, and today we celebrate the joy and inspiration she brought to so many.

Star was first diagnosed with cancer in June 2004 and received numerous medical treatments during the six months prior to her

death. Specialists at MD Anderson Medical Center in Houston performed the necessary surgery and follow-up treatments for a stage four cancer. The citizens of Sulphur Springs and members of the First Baptist Church rallied in support of Star, her parents Steve and Kari, and sister Saylor. Sean Huffman, editor of *The Christian News Monthly*, wrote and published a moving article about Star and the strength and faith demonstrated by Star's parents.

Star was a beautiful and vibrant young girl who demonstrated a capacity to live with enthusiasm and joy despite her serious illness. She never understood all that was happening to her and certainly could not comprehend the outpouring of support from friends and strangers alike. But her parents did. Their Sunday School class provided groceries so they wouldn't have to shop. Someone mowed their yard every week. Weyerhaeuser in Dallas donated purple stars with Star's name on them that were sold to help defray out-of-pocket medical expenses. These stars were displayed all around Sulphur Springs in a show of support. Steve and Kari's employer, Farm Bureau Insurance, donated enough to cover a weekly chemotherapy drug that was not covered by their medical insurance. And the prayers that were lifted for Star and her family are countless.

Throughout this difficult time, Kari and Steve demonstrated an unshakeable faith in God and a strength beyond belief. Star may have lost her battle with cancer, but she was victorious in life. Star unknowingly strengthened the faith of her family, brought a community together in love and support, and captured the hearts of many throughout the Nation. As we adjourn today in the House of Representa-

tives, let us do so in loving memory of the life of Star Nuckolls. May her short but remarkable life continue to bless her family and community and all those whose hearts she touched.

FIFTIETH JUBILEE OF REVEREND
I.J. JOHNSON

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, this month our community celebrates the fiftieth jubilee of Reverend I.J. Johnson is the pastor of St. Mark's Missionary Baptist Church in Toledo, Ohio.

Amazingly, Reverend Johnson entered the ministry at age twelve. By nineteen, he began pastoring in his home state of Alabama. He received his Bachelor of Theology degree from Easonian Baptist Seminary in Birmingham, Alabama, and served four churches until coming to Ohio in 1955. In July of that year, he was invited by Dr. Israel Walker to conduct a revival at St. Mary's Baptist Church. During this visit he met the woman who would become his wife. On August 26, 1958, Reverend Johnson and Mother Betty Rae Johnson were married. Together they raised four children: Reverend C.L. Johnson, Reverend Michael Johnson. Denise Williams and Angela Taylor.

In October of 1955, Pastor Johnson founded and organized St. Mark's Missionary Baptist Church. Started with just three members, the church grew over the half-century to more than 2,000 souls.

Enjoying a well-earned reputation as a spiritual leader, Pastor Johnson has been invited to conduct revivals in Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Indiana, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, and Tennessee. All of this in addition to his ministry at St. Mark's. He has established a yearly fellowship with Historical First Baptist Church of Toronto, Ontario, Canada. In 1981, Pastor Johnson invited Dr. Martin Luther King Sr. to St. Mark's, at which time the first album recorded by the church choir was dedicated. The album was entitled "Our Day Will Come."

Many of our area ministers count Pastor Johnson as mentor. Perhaps the greatest testament to his nurturing ability is the fact that both of his sons are now preachers in their own right. Not only ministers, but many in our community have been beneficiaries of his counsel. Truly a community leader, Pastor Johnson served as president of the Baptist Ministers Conference for eight years. Other associations include the Fairside Community Organization, Northwestern Ohio Missionary Baptist Association, Lucas County Mental Health Board, Interracial Interfaith Committee, Evangelical Board of the National Baptist Convention, and NAACP. A welcome advisor, Reverend Johnson has also been specially recognized by our area's elected leaders.

Reverend Johnson's charismatic leadership, dynamic example, personal spirituality, and careful teachings have brought many people to live their lives in the steps of Jesus Christ. He embodies God's teachings as written in Matthew, 4:19; "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."